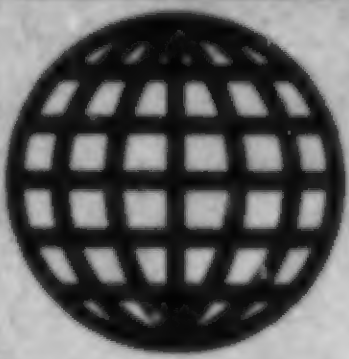




**FOREIGN
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Daily Report

East Asia

**FBIS-EAS-90-076
Thursday
19 April 1990**

Daily Report

East Asia

FBIS-EAS-90-076

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19 April 1990

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Japan

Former U.S. Ambassador Mansfield Calls on Kaifu

OW1904082490 Tokyo KYODO in English 0645 GMT
19 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 19 KYODO—Former U.S. Ambassador to Japan Mike Mansfield on Thursday praised Japan and the United States for building up a system in which both countries share responsibility for various problems they face via the Structural Impediments Initiative (SII) talks, Japanese officials said. During a meeting with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu at his official residence, Mansfield said the process by which both the United States and Japan point out the problems within each other's economies helped to create this system.

The former U.S. ambassador said an SII interim report and the progress made between the two sides on the supercomputers issue have received favorable reviews from the U.S. Congress.

Kaifu responded by saying, "Japan is determined to move forward" on the SII talks, adding it was "important for us to raise the standard of living of our citizens."

Source Rejects Optimism on U.S. Trade Deficit

OW1804200890 Tokyo KYODO in English 1457 GMT
18 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 18 (KYODO)—A Bank of Japan [BOJ] source said Wednesday it is too early to draw a conclusion from a marked improvement in the U.S. trade deficit in February that the trend will continue. "It's too early to conclude that the U.S. trade deficit will continue to shrink at a rapid tempo," the source said, commenting on a 30.4 percent drop in the U.S. trade deficit in February.

The source said the February improvement was attributed to temporary factors, citing as one a sharp fall in crude oil imports resulting from a mild winter.

Asked to comment on a 7.6 percent drop in imports, the source said he does not think it means the U.S. economy is slowing at a fast pace, suggesting there is little possibility of the Federal Reserve changing its tight credit grip against inflation. "As economic figures such as industrial output pointed to strength in the U.S. economy, it should be considered as steady," he said.

Referring to the impact of the trade data on exchange rates, the source said it is unlikely that the yen will decline rapidly beyond 160 yen to the dollar as demand for dollars has been slowing.

A Finance Ministry official, meanwhile, welcomed the February narrowing in the U.S. trade gap, but voiced doubts about whether the trend would last in the coming months. Echoing the BOJ source, the official said the

drop in the trade gap stemmed chiefly from weak crude oil imports, a factor which he termed "temporal" due to the mild winter.

"It's a good trend that (U.S.) exports remain at high levels despite a stronger dollar," the official said on condition of anonymity. "But the February data was affected largely by temporal factors like a decline in crude oil imports." The official did not take a 9.2 percent increase in the U.S. trade deficit with Japan very seriously, saying that the 3.1 billion dollar deficit itself was below those seen in recent years.

The latest U.S. trade data was received calmly by currency dealers in Tokyo. "I don't believe the Fed (Federal Reserve) will alter its inflation-fighting credit policy as the improved trade balance is not the result of a slowing economy," one dealer said. Another dealer said he does not predict the yen will fall much below the 160 yen level because of the February deficit as there is strong selling pressure by some Japanese life insurance companies at that level.

Hashimoto Says U.S. Wants No Rise in Dollar

OW1904054690 Tokyo KYODO in English 0436 GMT
19 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 19 KYODO—Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said Thursday he does not believe the U.S. monetary authorities will welcome a further rise of the dollar's exchange value. His remark followed a comment made late Wednesday by U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady that the recent decline of the yen is of no immediate concern.

Hashimoto told the House of Representatives Budget Committee that he had not heard such a view expressed by U.S. Representatives at the meeting of the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialized nations in Paris on April 7.

Hashimoto said he does not think the U.S. Federal Reserve Board will tolerate a further upswing of the U.S. currency in view of the negative effect of a higher dollar on the U.S. trade balance. He also said Japan is at liberty to make any decision regarding its monetary policy.

Japan reportedly pledged at the G-7 meeting it will not trigger a global credit tightening by further raising its official discount rate.

Concessions on Amorphous Metals Discussed

OW1904052790 Tokyo KYODO in English 0447 GMT
19 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 19 KYODO—Japanese trade officials believe there is little room to make any concessions in the soon-to-start talks with the United States over Japan's import barriers on amorphous alloys. "Our principal purpose in having the talks is to convince the

U.S. that the whole issue is based on their misunderstanding," said Hirofumi Kawano, director of MITI's [Ministry of International Trade and Industry] Americas-Oceania Division.

The U.S. trade representative [USTR] and the Embassy of Japan in Washington have just announced that the two countries will initiate immediate talks to seek solutions within 150 days to trade issues regarding amorphous metals, a high-tech material used primarily to improve efficiency in electric power transmission.

The issue first came into the spotlight when a U.S. firm, Allied-Signal Inc., filed a complaint with the USTR in March, accusing Japan of trying to exclude U.S. companies from its multibillion-dollar amorphous metal market.

The announcement of the start of bilateral talks means the USTR will not start the probe at least for the time being.

Japanese trade officials have been concerned that the alloy could be named as a target of the so-called Super 301 provision of the 1988 U.S. Omnibus Trade Act, which empowers the U.S. Government to take retaliatory measures against unfair foreign trade practices. The USTR is expected to announce a new list of "unfair traders" designated under the Super 301 provision at the end of April. Although the decision to start talks does not exclude the possibility that Japan's amorphous metal market will be put on the Super 301 "hit list," it is now widely believed unlikely that the USTR would take such a step.

MITI said in a statement released after the announcement that the agreement to start talks does not mean Japan has accepted the U.S. company's claim that the Japanese market for the metal is unfair. The talks are aimed at establishing the facts about the issue and seeking a solution based on them, it said.

Electric power companies, which are users of electric transformers, welcomed the announcement. A spokesman for a major electric utility firm said, "Allied-Signal's claim that Japanese electric power companies have plotted concerted refusal to buy amorphous metal transformers is based on a misunderstanding. It is only natural that the USTR will, as had been expected, decide against citing the metal as a Super 301 target," he said.

The principal players in the dispute, the spokesman said, are the Japanese Government, which financed a joint research venture among Japanese makers to develop amorphous metal production technology, and the U.S. firm which manufactures the material. He said electric utilities are mere end users of the material.

"The transformers using amorphous metals are still in a research and development phase in Japan, so it is impossible for Japanese companies to block foreign access to the market," he added.

Official Comments on U.S. Troop Reduction Plan

OW1904090890 Tokyo KYODO in English 0848 GMT
19 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 19 KYODO—Taizo Terajima, chairman of the Joint Staff Council of Japan's Self-Defense Forces, said Thursday he cannot tell whether the planned reduction in U.S. troop numbers in Japan will weaken U.S. military strength in Japan before seeing what specific measures the U.S. side takes. Terajima told a press conference he thinks the United States plans to curtail the number of its personnel stationed in Japan and not to reduce its defense commitment to Japan.

Terajima made the remarks in response to a U.S. Defense Department report entitled "A Strategic Framework for the Asian Pacific Rim: Looking Toward the 21st Century". According to the report, obtained by the Washington Bureau of KYODO NEWS SERVICE, in the next three to five years, the Pentagon envisions "additional efficiencies and reductions" of U.S. troops in Japan on the premise that Japan and other U.S. allies in the Asian-Pacific region assume more responsibilities.

Mieno on Action Plan for Foreign Exchange Issue

OW1904081090 Tokyo KYODO in English 0704 GMT
19 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 19 KYODO—Bank of Japan (BOJ) Governor Yasushi Mieno said Thursday the central bank will take coordinated action with other Group of Seven (G-7) nations to meet any unexpected moves on the foreign exchange markets. Mieno said the G-7 meeting earlier this month in Paris reaffirmed that there is no change in the policy for international coordination to stabilize foreign exchange rates.

The central bank chief made the remarks at the annual meeting of the Trust Company Association of Japan at the Keidanren (Federation of Economic Organizations) hall in Tokyo.

Mieno also said the Japanese economy will maintain its sound path for the time being, backed by strong corporate capital spending and firm private consumption. But the current business expansion has already entered its fourth year, and the central bank will continue to keep a close watch on the future course of the Japanese economy, Mieno said.

Mieno said prices are stable and added that the basic trend will not change in the near future. But Mieno said the labor shortage, high money supply growth rates, and the depreciation of the yen could challenge price stability.

Mieno said he hopes the last hike of Japan's official discount rate will effectively confine inflationary pressures, maintain domestic demand-led growth, and stabilize monetary and financial markets. The central bank raised the key lending rate a full percentage point to 5.25 percent per annum last March 20.

Group Criticizes Claim About Chinese Hijacker

*OW1804202290 Tokyo KYODO in English 1449 GMT
18 Apr 90*

[Text] Tokyo, April 18 (KYODO)—The Japan office of the Federation for Democracy in China (FDC) Wednesday criticized a Tokyo high public prosecutors' claim that the pro-democracy group fabricated a letter that said suspected Chinese hijacker Zhang Zhenhai took part in last year's antigovernment demonstrations in Tiananmen Square in Beijing.

Zhang, 36, has been fighting extradition to China after hijacking an Air China airliner last December to Fukuoka, claiming he is fleeing political persecution as an active member of China's pro-democracy movement. His case is being heard by the Tokyo High Court.

Chinese exiles in Japan have offered to testify that they saw Zhang at the rallies that preceded the violent June 4 crackdown. Prosecutors, however, contend that the letter submitted by the FDC to the Tokyo High Court on Zhang's behalf was fabricated in Tokyo and later stamped with a seal at FDC headquarters in Paris.

The FDC representatives said allegations that the letter about Zhang was fabricated are "slanderous." The FDC also renewed its stance against the repatriation of Zhang to China.

Zhang claims he was fleeing political persecution at the time he hijacked the New York-bound flight last December. Chinese authorities, however, maintain that Zhang is a common criminal offender facing embezzlement charges and was free on bail when he fled.

Polish Official Urges Companies To Invest

*OW1804202690 Tokyo KYODO in English 1500 GMT
18 Apr 90*

[Text] Tokyo, April 18 (KYODO)—A high-ranking Polish Government official called on Japanese companies on Wednesday to begin investing in Poland, saying the country is starting to create a favorable investment climate. Janusz Kaczurba, undersecretary of state at the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, said in an interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE he is aware that Japanese businessmen are cautious about investing in Poland, but said his country is ready to talk to Japanese companies about investment guarantees in their favor.

"The Polish Government is preparing to set up a Western-style market economy," he said, adding it also wanted to establish "an economic system favorable to private business initiatives."

Kaczurba said that Warsaw has unlimited currency convertibility and no import restriction measures. He said Poland currently allows only 15 percent of total net profits made by foreign companies to be remitted to their own countries, but said Warsaw is ready to discuss

the problem with Japanese firms, which have complained that the percentage is too small.

Kaczurba also said the Polish economy was rapidly improving, noting that a strict budgetary policy had brought the inflation rate plunging from a monthly increase of 80 percent last January to just 6 percent last month. He also noted that the Polish trade surplus was 800 million dollars for the first quarter of this year, about three times as large as the surplus for the whole of last year.

Kaczurba, who is heading a five-member delegation, arrived in Japan on Monday at the invitation of the Nomura Research Institute to learn about the securities market here and Japanese economic management. He will leave for Poland, via India, on Thursday.

French, Japanese Defense Chiefs Hold Talks

*OW1804152390 Tokyo KYODO in English 1408 GMT
18 Apr 90*

[Text] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO—French Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement proposed greater bilateral cooperation in technology in a meeting with his Japanese counterpart here Wednesday, according to a Defense Agency official. Defense Agency Director General Yozo Ishikawa welcomed an increased exchange of "technology in general," but said Japanese policy forbids the export of military technology. The exchange was mentioned as part of closer contacts between the French and Japanese military.

In an exchange of views on Europe, the two defense chiefs agreed that the Soviet Union remained a military superpower despite arms cuts under the perestroika program of restructuring. Chevenement termed the East European shift toward democracy "earth shaking" and unlikely to reverse itself, but noted uncertainty in continuing Soviet reform. The Soviet military was unlikely to support further downgrading of its role, he said.

France and Europe, Chevenement said, would assume responsibility for their own defense as U.S. troop withdrawals progressed, guarding against any hollowing out of military strength.

Ishikawa, in a post-session briefing, said the fluid Soviet situation made a reduction in military ability in either Europe and Japan undesirable. U.S.-Japan security ties, he said, would continue to contribute to the region's stability.

Chevenement arrived in Tokyo earlier in the day [as] the first French defense minister to visit Japan, though Japanese defense chiefs have traveled to Paris several times previously. The itinerary for his four-day visit includes stops at an electronics plant and economic organizations.

The minister leaves Tokyo on Saturday.

Vietnam's Vice Foreign Minister Arrives in Tokyo
*OW1804150890 Tokyo KYODO in English 1340 GMT
18 Apr 90*

[Text] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO—Vietnam's first vice minister for foreign affairs, Dinh Nho Liem, arrived here Wednesday for political consultations with Japan. During his four-day stay here, Liem is to meet with Vice Foreign Minister Takakazu Kuriyama and Deputy Foreign Minister Hisashi Owada.

Nakayama's Regret on Koreans Said Unprecedented
*OW1804153290 Tokyo KYODO in English 1500 GMT
18 Apr 90*

[Text] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO—Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama on Wednesday issued an unprecedentedly strong statement of regret on Japan's abandonment of Koreans on the Soviet far eastern island of Sakhalin at the end of World War II. "Japan regrets the sad history and tragedies of the past and carries with it a feeling of heartfelt sorrow," Nakayama said, responding to questions in the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee.

Foreign Ministry officials acknowledged that Nakayama's personal choice of wording was unique in comparison with past precedents. But at the same time, officials said the foreign minister's expression of regret is basically in line with previous statements of the kind issued by the government.

Sakutaro Tanino, director general of the ministry's Asian Affairs Bureau, indicated before the same committee that Japan is positively considering South Korean demands that Japan repay with interest savings accumulated by Koreans who were stranded on the former Japanese territory of Sakhalin at the end of the war.

Korean wartime survivors on Sakhalin, most of whom were forcibly drafted by the Japanese to labor there before the end of the war, are estimated now to number 3,000-4,000, as compared with the 43,000 stranded at the end of the war. Some 37,000 other Koreans now on Sakhalin are their second and third generation offspring.

Kaifu on Possible Freezing of Land Prices
*OW1904031990 Tokyo NHK General Television
Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 11 Apr 90*

[Text] Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu said that the government may designate zones where land prices may eventually be frozen in order to restrain prices. He was speaking at a session of the Lower House Budget Committee today.

On the fourth day of the committee's question-and-answer session today, Hironori Inoue of the Japan Socialist Party expressed opposition to the designation of zones where land prices could be frozen and land transactions would require government authorization based on the National Land Utilization Law in order to

restrain land prices. He said that such measures are questionable because of the possible infringement on individual rights and, therefore, should not be considered too lightly.

In reply, Prime Minister Kaifu said that he had given instructions at a meeting of concerned ministers that in handling the issue it should be kept in mind that more rigid measures for zone designation may eventually be introduced to prevent forestalling of the current measures. According to the measures currently enforced, in certain zones, land transactions must be registered with the authorities only when land lots larger than a certain size are sold. Prime Minister Kaifu added that the government may eventually introduce the system of designating zones.

Inoue also referred to the increase in public works spending Japan promised in the Structural Impediments Initiative talks with the United States. He asked the government about the new comprehensive public spending plans which were to be worked out prior to the final report scheduled for July.

Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto replied that it would be important to set a total investment figure for 15 areas whose investment programs are now set separately, along with the improvement of educational and welfare facilities as well as projects involving Japanese Railways [JR] and Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation [NTT] which were once regarded as public works. He also disclosed that the government will submit to the U.S. side a total investment figure for the new comprehensive public works programs, including those for the already privatized JR and the NTT, for the next 10 years to be included in the final report.

Coal Output Falls Further in Fiscal 1989

*OW1704124290 Tokyo KYODO in English 1209 GMT
17 Apr 90*

[Text] Tokyo, April 17 KYODO—Japan's sagging coal output fell short of the 10 million metric ton level in Fiscal 1989 for the first time in 87 years, reaching only 9.64 million tons, down 13.2 percent from the previous year, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) announced Tuesday.

The decline was the fifth in as many years since Fiscal 1985, and the third consecutive annual double-digit setback. It was also the first annual output of less than 10 million tons since 1902. The Fiscal 1989 output amounts to about 17.4 percent or roughly a sixth of the 55.41 million-ton peak recorded in Fiscal 1961.

In accordance with government policy, the production of Japanese coal, for which production costs are well above those of overseas coal, has been systematically cut back. The current five-year program calls for output to be whittled down to about 10 million tons by Fiscal 1991. Fiscal 1989 output reached the target level two years early.

Further Utilization of Marine Resources Urged

OW1704062490 Tokyo KYODO in English 0511 GMT
17 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 17 KYODO—Japan should further utilize the marine resources in its own territorial waters, rather than fishing in other countries' waters or on the high seas, a White Paper recommended Tuesday. The White Paper, a report on Japan's fisheries in fiscal 1989, was approved at the day's cabinet meeting after being submitted by Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Tomio Yamamoto.

In view of the fact that fishery regulations have become stricter in foreign territorial waters as well as on the high seas recently, the White Paper said, Japan should make good use of marine resources in its 200-mile fishery zone.

Japan's fish catch came to 12,780,000 tons in fiscal 1989, up 3 percent from the previous year. It was valued at 2,722 billion yen, up 5 percent and marking the first rise in four years, the report said.

Consumption of marine products increased, reflecting consumers' increasing interest in healthy food, the report said. But domestic production increased only 1 percent from the year before to 8,850,000 tons due to deterioration of marine resources in the nation's territorial waters, it added.

Fishery imports, as a result, jumped by 16 percent to 2,410,000 tons, the highest level on record and accounting for about 30 percent of the nation's demand, the White Paper said. Fishing conditions in foreign territorial waters have become tougher, the report said. Japanese fishing boats were shut out from U.S. waters, formerly the largest fishing ground for Japan, in 1988, it noted.

Meanwhile, fishing on the high seas also became harder, the report said. The United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution banning drift-net fishing unless Japan comes up with effective proposals for managing marine resources by 1992. Creation of measures on resources preservation and control is urgent, the paper said.

The White Paper urged the creation of a management system, in which fishermen would voluntarily control resources without overfishing. It also urged the improvement of cultivation skills, and the establishment of more effective delivery of marine products from production sites to consumers.

Decreasing resources of such fish as Alaska pollack should be stabilized and eventually be increased, the report said. Popular marine products in strong consumer demand such as shrimp, prawn, sea bream, and flounder, should be cultivated more effectively, it added.

Touching on the problem of the aging fishery population, the paper stressed the necessity of making the fishery

industry attractive to younger people. Although the fishery industry was bullish in fiscal 1989, the number of fishermen decreased by 9 percent from that in 1983 to 314,000 workers. The paper attributed the decline to the fact that an increasing number of younger people turned away from fishery-related work. Improving the environment of fishing areas and fostering marine recreation-related industries would attract those people again, the paper suggested.

Toyota, Nissan Post 'Record Domestic Sales'

OW1704112190 Tokyo KYODO in English 1033 GMT
17 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 17 KYODO—Toyota Motor Corp. and Nissan Motor Co. reported Tuesday record domestic sales of cars, trucks, and buses in Fiscal 1989 ended March 31, buoyed by brisk demand and lower auto taxes following tax reforms last April.

Exports by the two largest Japanese automakers fell from Fiscal 1988, however, reflecting a decline in shipments to the United States, the main market for Japanese auto manufacturers. Increasing production overseas also bit into exports.

Toyota's domestic sales totaled 2,436,083 vehicles, up 16.2 percent from the previous year, with car sales up 18.1 percent to a record 1,877,429 vehicles.

Domestic sales by Nissan also increased 18.0 percent to 1,385,187 vehicles, with car sales accounting for a record 1,062,392 vehicles, up 23.6 percent.

Exports by Toyota decreased 9.2 percent to 1,669,274 vehicles. Shipments of cars to the U.S. dropped 10.0 percent to 551,325 vehicles, below its self-imposed export quota estimated at some 610,000.

Nissan exported 987,614 vehicles, down 9.0 percent from the year before, with U.S.-bound car shipments representing 354,099 vehicles, down 16.9 percent, also well below its quota of about 533,000.

Toyota's production edged up 0.1 percent to a record 3,984,713 vehicles, while Nissan's rose 5.9 percent to 2,371,769. Meanwhile, Toyota's domestic sales in March grew 16.2 percent from a year earlier to a record monthly high of 330,747 vehicles, while Nissan's climbed 16.0 percent to 198,828, also an all-time high.

Toyota exported 146,100 vehicles in March, up 16.8 percent, while Nissan sold 87,671 vehicles overseas, down 25.7 percent. Toyota's output slowed in the month, decreasing 1.7 percent to 387,240 vehicles, while Nissan's was also down 1.1 percent to 236,953 vehicles.

Mongolia

Soviet Official's Comments on Ties Noted

*OW1804120290 Ulaanbaatar International Service
in English 0810 GMT 18 Apr 90*

[Text] The Soviet Union positively estimates Mongolia's striving to develop normal relations with all interested states, particularly with East Asian nations, despite ideological differences. This was said by head of the Soviet Foreign Ministry Information Board Vadim Perfilyev at a briefing in Moscow.

Mongolia's foreign policy is determined by the priority of national interests; insurance of national security through political, diplomatic means; openness to international community; and active participation in non-aligned movement as well as in international and regional division of labor, noted the Soviet diplomat.

Correction of Mongolian diplomacy toward raising the orientation of its national interests and real needs of the country will more strengthen the foreign political interactions between the USSR and Mongolia, he noted.

Party Investigation Commission Holds Meeting

*OW1804120190 Ulaanbaatar International Service
in English 0810 GMT 18 Apr 90*

[Text] The newly set up commission on investigations into the activity of the closest encirclement of the former party and state leader Tsedenbal held its first meeting, discussing the basic trends of its activity. The commission has addressed a request to party members and the entire people to supply information and documents related to the activity of those who held higher posts in the party and state leadership in the years between 1950's and mid-1984.

It has been informed that the commission took under its complete control the archives of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee, and it is obliged to report to press and media of the progress of its activity.

UNEN Publishes New Communist Party Rules

*OW1804104090 Ulaanbaatar International Service
in English 0810 GMT 18 Apr 90*

[Text] The daily UNEN carries new rules of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party approved at the recent party extraordinary congress. More democracy and clear interpretation of the inner party life are the noticeable difference of the new rules from the previous ones. They say that the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party proclaims socialism in its humane democratic content. In their roles, Mongolian Communists more democratize the notion right [as heard] for the first time ever providing the members with the right to withdraw from the party and rejoin it at their own wish.

Provisions on interrelationship between the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party and the Mongolian Revolutionary Youth Union and party organizations of the Mongolian People's Army and other public organizations have been removed from the party rules.

The Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party is prepared to cooperate with other parties, movements, and public organizations within the framework of the Constitution and legislative acts of Mongolia, noted the new rules.

Gobi Movement Petitions Party, State Leaders

*OW1804115490 Ulaanbaatar International Service
in English 0810 GMT 18 Apr 90*

[Text] The trade union newspaper carries a petition of the Gobi Movement to Chairman of the Presidium of the People's Great Hural of Mongolia Punsalmaagiyn Ochirbat, Prime Minister Gungaadorj, and Chairman of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party Committee Central Committee Gombojabyn Ochirbat. It proposes to grant specific status to the Mongolian Gobi, form the free zones of international economic cooperation, get material and technical aid from the United Nations Organization in settling the irrigation problem of the Gobi, to provide South Gobi Aymag with the right to realize the part of camel wool and cashmere in the world market and get up to 50 percent of currency income from foreign tourism, and provide the aymag with an opportunity to establish direct ties with one of the Japanese prefectures.

The petition notes that the above-mentioned undertakings would help to settle the socioeconomic and ecological problems of South Gobi Province.

Commission To Rename Ulaanbaatar Streets, Squares

*OW1804115790 Ulaanbaatar International Service
in English 0810 GMT 18 Apr 90*

[Text] The newspaper CAPITAL HERALD informs of the formation of a commission on stopping [as heard] and renaming the streets, squares, and residential estates of the Mongolian capital. Decisions have been adopted on restoring historical names of a number of streets and squares as well as immortalizing the names of prominent star fighters for freedom and independence of Mongolia and famous cultural figures of Mongolia.

Democratic Union Inaugurated in Ulaanbaatar

*OW1804062390 Ulaanbaatar International Service
in Japanese 1100 GMT 17 Apr 90*

[Text] A democratic union [minshu domei] has been inaugurated in Ulaanbaatar. In this connection, a news conference was held.

At the news conference Dzorig, representative of the Democratic Union, said: The Mongolian Democratic Union, the Democratic Socialist Movement [minshu

shakai undo], the New Progressive League [shin shimpo domei], the Democratic Party, the Democratic Socialist Party [minshu shakai-to], and the Mongolian National Progressive Party [mongoru minzoku shimpo-to] jointly inaugurated the Democratic Union to carry out policies regarding the promotion of its social status in the social, political, economic, and ideological fields; the rectification of social injustices and inequities; the promotion of reforms; and the establishment of a rule-of-law state. The Democratic Union adopted the joint declaration as the fundamental policy for its activities.

Dzorig also said that the Democratic Union will completely reject the use of armed force under any circumstances.

Commentary Views 'Law-Governed State'

*OW1804122790 Ulaanbaatar International Service
in English 1100 GMT 18 Apr 90*

[Station commentary: "On Some Questions of Consolidation of Law-Governed State—Mongolia"]

[Text] The last Eighth Session of the People's Great Hural of the Mongolian People's Republic and the Eighth Plenary Meeting of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee have determined that the consolidation of a law-governed state is a basic trend of renewal of the political system of the Mongolian society. The very foundation and strengthening of a law-governed state structure is a comparatively long-lasting process that guarantees the most suitable structure of state and state bodies; insures the whole legislative system, human rights and democracy; and includes the process of separating clear division of power functions.

A great deal is being done in this regard. First of all, it must be noted that the People's Great Hural has submitted for nationwide discussion draft amendments into the Constitution of Mongolian People's Republic. The draft envisages that the supreme state governing body of Mongolia is the People's Great Hural, and the house legislative, administrative, and permanent control organization is the People's Small Hural. Besides, it envisages an invalidation of the chapters 3 and 4 of the Constitution and introduction of a presidential system of rule, and thus in this connection the Mongolian Council of Ministers will suffer a certain functional changes.

Besides this draft constitutional amendment, the entire Mongolian people discuss another draft law on the political parties. Furthermore, with due account of the present reality of multiparty system in Mongolia, some constitutional provisions on the guiding and leading role of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party in the society will [be] removed from the Constitution. In this connection, the draft law indicates that the very aim of this law is to guarantee the constitutional rights of Mongolian citizens to join any political parties and take an active part in the political life of the society. Furthermore, it proposes a constitutional guarantee of equal

rights of political parties and noninterference into each other's internal affairs and unimposition of views on other parties. Besides, according to the draft, parties must have a self-financing structure and they are obliged to report on their financial activities every fiscal year to the Mongolian Government.

Never before Mongolia has witnessed such an enthusiasm and will of the people to participate in the political life of the country. Everyone, old and young, is quite aware of the urgent need of the time to contribute their share to the foundation of a law-governed state with the account of specific conditions of Mongolia. After thorough discussions, these draft laws will be submitted for consideration at a regular session of the People's Great Hural scheduled for the coming summer.

North Korea

Radio Celebrates Kim Il-song's Birthday

*SK1704120090 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
2230 GMT 14 Apr 90*

["Recorded Program" (nogum kusong): "Hymns of Congratulations and Best Wishes Are Resounding Across the Country"]

[Excerpts] The significant spring festive day of April has come to this land of paradise under the bright sunlight.

The 15th of April, when the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song was born, is the greatest national festival. The mood of warm congratulations and best wishes is overflowing the soil of the fatherland.

The hymn wishing him good health and long life, which began to echo a long time ago when the chuche revolutionary cause was first pioneered, is more solemnly and more ardently resounding at the beginning of the nineties under the April spring sky.

On the morning of this festive day, the beautiful Kim Il-song flower and the fragrant Kim Chong-il flower are in full bloom reflecting the people's boundless congratulations and best wishes. The song of congratulations and best wishes is resounding from every street, every village and every household. With this song, our people have deep thoughts.

What would our people have become if we were not embraced in the benevolent bosom of the fatherly leader? The idea that all honor and happiness of our fatherland and our people lie in upholding the great leader seeps more deeply into our hearts as time passes.

Until some time ago, our people had to traverse along the road filled with ordeals and suffering because we did not have our leader. [passage omitted]

During these dark nights of ordeals, the one who rose as a morning star illuminating the 3,000-ri-long land of the nation was the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

Personally bearing the destiny of the fatherland and the people, our leader embarked on the road of revolution at an early date, illuminating the chuche-oriented path of the Korean revolution, and had let our oppressed people seize the oar of history. The respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song, the great person whom we anxiously awaited for more than several thousand years, rose up as the great sun of the nation. Is there any greater festive event and any greater honor than this in our 5,000-year-long history?

People said, "Great fortune has come to Korea" and "A great lodestar has risen from Mt. Paektu." The deep emotions, joy, and great pride of our people in upholding the great leader as the leader of the nation teemed in the sky and on the land. [passage omitted]

Comrade Kang Hui-yong, an anti-Japanese revolutionary fighter, says as follows: [Begin Kang recording] Whenever I greet the festive April day when the fatherly leader was born, I recall with deep emotion the days of the past when I rushed around the broad battlefields during the anti-Japanese struggle period by following the great leader.

When the Japanese imperialists babbled that they would wipe out the anti-Japanese guerrillas while indulging in bravado and bluster, we fought with a firm conviction in victory because we highly upheld the great leader as the sun of the nation. A number of trees bearing slogans written by our comrades during the period of the anti-Japanese armed struggle have been discovered across the country including the areas around Mt. Paektu. Each one of these slogans can be said as writing of faith of our anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters.

I also wrote slogans on many trees at that time. Whenever I held a pen, my heart was filled with great emotion, and I felt an impulse to boast of the pride and happiness of our people by holding the great leader up to the entire world. Thus, I used to write words on a tree at no one's directive because I personally experienced the greatness of the fatherly leader through struggle and practical life.

Indeed, our people, who are upholding the respected and beloved leader as the leader of the nation and as the great sun, are the happiest people in the world. [end recording]

Our people highly upheld the great leader, who had been widely known as the legendary hero of the anti-Japanese struggle and as a peerless patriot, on the soil of liberated fatherland. How great were our people's joy and emotion? The great leader made our people, who lived amid pain and sorrow as a homeless race, the masters of plants, the masters of land and the masters of the nation, and gave the worth of a new life to our people.

The benevolence we received was so great and so grateful that the hearts of our people were filled with deep emotion and a sense of boundless admiration and gratitude.

At a meeting with the great Leader on a spring day in April 1946, a poet wrote a poem which reads as follows:

No one knew that the general was coming.
But everyone knew that the general had come.
The general is our light which no one can block.
The general is our sun which no one can hide.
Everyone says the general is young.
Yes, the general is young.
Why should our general be old?

His past was embroidered with bloody struggle.
And the fatherland has been rebuilt.

Let us remember, the general is not only our general but is the great sun which should also illuminate South Korea and the entire nation.

Oh, the general is a sagacious general for all people.
He is the sun of humankind; the sun has risen from the East.

The sun will shine all over the world. [passage omitted]

By recalling the time when the people's desire was achieved, Song Tong-chun, a music composer laureate with Kim Il-song citation and the people's artist, said: [Begin Song recording] I held my pen to compose this song to reflect the people's wishes for the great leader's good health and long life but the song was not composed as I wanted. I continued composing and erasing the music. When I was irritated with the work of composing the song, the one who brightly illuminated my eyes was the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il. He made heartwarming remarks on how sincere the respected leader's efforts were to give today's happiness to the people. He also explained in detail about ideas and ardent sentiments of our people to highly uphold and follow the great leader forever.

Hearing the heartwarming remarks of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, we were deeply moved to tears. On that night, I reflected his remarks in the words of a song. This is the very course in which the song "We Wish the Leader Long Life", which has been sung by our people with deep admiration, came to the world.

Indeed, the song, "We Wish the Leader Long Life" is the breath of our people who entrusted the great leader with our destiny and our future, and is the echo of our people's firm pledge to uphold the leader forever. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Cherishing the new hope and conviction, our people greet the first April festive day of the nineties.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: The era of the ninetieth is the era of hope and struggle during which we should vigorously march forward with an enhanced spirit, cherishing the great hope and firm conviction.

The goals put forward by our party for the nineties are indeed enormous and brilliant. It is our people's unanimous aspiration to build a better socialist paradise

during this brilliant period and to achieve the cause of national reunification, the nation's supreme desire.

This is the very lofty intent and plan of the great leader and our party. Without the sacred and glorious path to brilliantly realize the great leader's intent and plan, one cannot think of the people's wish for the leader's long life. [passage omitted]

On the morning of this significant festive day, the soldiers of the People's Army are standing at the microphone. Yi Yong-un, Colonel of the Korean People's Army (KPA), says: [Begin Yi recording] Our KPA soldiers, who built 50,000 houses in Pyongyang, the capital of revolution, while firmly defending the fatherland, respectfully extend heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to the respected leader on the morning of this significant festive day—the greatest national festive day—when the fatherly leader was born.

Fatherly leader, I ardently wish you good health and long life. The good health and long life of the fatherly leader are the greatest happiness of all of the soldiers of our People's Army.

Following the example displayed by Comrade Kim Kwang-chol, we will uphold the beaconfire of creation of the new speed of the nineties with the spirit we had when we built the Sohae Lockgate and the Suncheon Vinalon Complex while firmly defending the fatherland, and will vigorously accelerate the construction of Nangnang Road, a breakthrough for building 50,000 houses.

By doing so, we will again extend a great joy and satisfaction to the fatherly leader. [end recording]

On the morning of the significant April festive day, our people are moved to tears as we think of the shape our beloved brothers and sisters in the South are in. Yet, our people's intent to uphold the fatherly leader becomes even more intense.

The efforts and labors made by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song for national reunification have no measure. Our leader has had so many sleepless nights thinking about fellow countrymen in the South who cannot share happiness and joy with our people.

Our leader grew old and his hairs became grey while thinking of the issue of national reunification throughout his whole life. Thus, our people first looked up at the fatherly leader even when we fondly embraced coed Yim Su-kyong who dashed toward the plaza of the festival last year. Even while singing the songs about the people's aspirations for reunification hand in hand with the fellow countrymen from the South and overseas, we felt a lump in our throats as we looked up at the leader.

Indeed, can there be any greater joy for the fatherly leader than national reunification and can there be a more blessed song for him than the cheers that will resound across the reunified country?

Yo Yon-ku, chairman of the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland, respectfully extends the greetings to the fatherly leader for his good health and long life, together with the aspirations of all people to reunify the fatherland in the nineties without fail.

[Begin Yo recording] Although we greet the April festive day every year, we have special feelings and emotions as we greet this significant day for the first time in the nineties. Even though time passes quickly, our nation has not been reunified. How happy would our respected leader be if all fellow countrymen in the North and the South greet the April festive day coming together in one place?

My heart is filled with only the aspiration to reunify our country in the nineties, which was divided in the forties, at any cost. Such an aspiration is not only my own but is the unanimous desire of all fellow countrymen. We should not delay national reunification any longer even for the new generation. I will more tenaciously fight for the day when we can highly uphold the fatherly leader at the plaza of reunification. [end recording]

On the morning of the April festival day which we greet at the beginning of the nineties after passing through the 70-year-long distant chronicles since the historic time when we upheld the great leader as the sun of the nation, the hearts of our people are filled with a boundless pride in the fact that by upholding the great party, we can inherit and accomplish the leader's revolutionary cause generation after generation, and that the national aspiration for upholding the leader [suryong] forever has been brilliantly achieved.

The chuche revolutionary cause pioneered in the Paektu forest—the revolutionary cause pioneered and led by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song—is being more brilliantly inherited and developed by dear Comrade Kim Chong-il who was highly upheld as a bright star of Mt. Paektu during the anti-Japanese struggle period.

Standing on a peak of Mt. Yongnam and looking down the 3,000-ri-long country, dear Comrade Kim Chong-il firmly pledged to glorify Korea. Our pride in highly upholding him and tenaciously fighting for the final victory of the chuche revolutionary cause is indeed endless. Because dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, who has brilliant wisdom, outstanding leadership and uncommon courage, is leading our revolution, the future of our fatherland is endlessly bright. Because he is leading our people with a lofty paragon of loyalty, all ideas and plans of the leader are being turned into the great reality.

O, respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song, may you be relieved from various anxieties and be blessed with good health and long life!

The complete victory of socialism and the independent and peaceful reunification of the nation will be brilliantly expedited amid the flames of a new revolutionary

upsurge while the entire party and all people loyally uphold the guide [hyangdo] of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The leader [suryong], may you be blessed with long life amid great joy. This is the very wish of all the people which is fiercely teeming in the entire nation at the beginning of the nineties.

The great leader's good health and long life are a boundless happiness and honor of our people. The great leader's good health and long life are the unanimous hope, aspiration, and joy of all the people of the world who pursue independence.

On this morning when warm congratulations are coming from the South, overseas, and all over the world, all the people throughout the country respectfully once again wish the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song good health and long life for the permanent happiness of our people, for the final victory of the socialist and communist cause, for the independent and peaceful reunification of the nation and for realizing the independence of the entire world.

Nominations for SPA Deputies Ends 18 Apr

*SK1804151590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1508 GMT
18 Apr 90*

[Text] Pyongyang April 18 (KCNA)—The nomination of candidates for deputies to the elections of the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was successfully wound up at constituencies across the country.

O Chin-u was nominated as a candidate for deputy to the SPA at the Chorwon Constituency No. 467 to nominate candidates for deputies to the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly, Yon Hyong-muk at the Yonbong Constituency No. 168, Kim Yong-nam at the Huchang Constituency No. 638, Kye Ung-tae at the Chungsong Constituency No. 684, Ho Tam at the Pukchin Constituency No. 246, Kang Song-san at the Sabong Constituency No. 594, Choe Kwang at the Woljong Constituency No. 658, Han Song-yong at the Sungni Constituency No. 182, Hyon Mu-kwang at the Kosanjin Constituency No. 293, Hong Song-nam at the Chegang Constituency No. 568, Chong Chun-ki at the Choyang Constituency No. 150, Cho Se-ung at the Chongju Constituency No. 226, Choe Tae-pok at the Sinpyong Constituency No. 411, Pak Nam-ki at the Pakchon Constituency No. 235, So Kwan-hui at the Yangso Constituency No. 209, Hwang Chang-yop at the Soksa Constituency No. 453, Kim Chung-nin at the Hoeryong Constituency No. 613, Kim Yun-hyok at the Kachon Constituency No. 396 and Kim Hwan at the Yongban Constituency No. 580.

Functionaries, workers, peasants, soldiers and working intellectuals who are boundlessly faithful to the great leader President Kim Il-song and our party and devoting themselves to the party and revolution, the country and

the people were also nominated as candidates for deputies to the SPA at the constituencies across the country.

Meanwhile, voters' meetings are taking place at constituencies throughout the country supporting the nominees for deputies to the SPA.

Rallies for Nomination of Candidates End

*SK1904053790 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0513 GMT
19 Apr 90*

[Text] Pyongyang April 19 (KCNA)—Voters' rallies for the nomination and support of candidates for deputies to the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] of the DPRK have been held with success in all parts of the country.

Thus concluded the nomination of candidates for SPA deputies that had been going on across the country after the workers and other working people in Nakwon and Musan nominated the great leader President Kim Il-song and dear Comrade Kim Chong-il as candidates for deputies to the SPA, reflecting the unanimous aspiration and absolute will of the Korean people.

All the constituencies throughout the country nominated as their candidates President Kim Il-song, the founder and leader of the Republic, and Comrade Kim Chong-il who has wisely led the struggle to accomplish the revolutionary cause of chuche and performed imperishable feats for the times and the revolution.

The constituencies also nominated as their candidates officials, workers, peasants, working intellectuals and soldiers who devotedly work for the strengthening of the DPRK Government, the prosperity of the socialist motherland and the accomplishment of the revolutionary cause of chuche with intense loyalty to the party and the leader.

Voters held rallies at all the constituencies to support the nominated candidates.

At the rallies, the voters fully approved and supported the nomination of President Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il as candidates, saying that it is a clear manifestation of the Korean people's absolute trust in and boundless reverence for the party and the leader and another political jubilee for the Korean people.

The voters expressed full support to the nominated candidates.

April Sports Festival of Students Opens

*SK1704214990 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1516 GMT
17 Apr 90*

[Text] Pyongyang April 17 (KCNA)—The national sports festival of students has opened here in celebration of the April holiday.

The festival participated in by some 1,300 student sportsmen selected from all provinces involves football, basketball, volleyball, table-tennis, tennis and rhythmic gymnastics.

An opening ceremony of the festival took place at the Kim Il-song stadium today.

Attending there were Chong Chun-ki, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and vice-premier of the Administration Council, Choe Tae-pok, secretary of the WPK Central Committee, and others.

Choe Yong-hae, chairman of the Central Committee of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea, in his opening address stressed that the sports festival will be a good occasion in preparing students better to be true native cadres of chuche type with firm revolutionary world outlook and possessed of modern science and technology and strong physical strength.

Kaesong Aeguk Garment Factory Commissioned

*SK1804102390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1006 GMT
18 Apr 90*

[Text] Pyongyang April 18 (KCNA)—A garment factory with an annual production capacity of tens of thousands of suits has been built in Kaesong, the city adjacent to the Military Demarcation Line of Korea.

All the production processes of this Kaesong Aeguk garment factory are streamlined with latest facilities.

It was built with the support of Kim In-kwon, a Korean businessman of Chongnyon [General Association of Korean Residents in Japan] in Tokyo metropolis.

In his report at the ceremony for its commissioning held on April 17, Han Kwang-yim, chairman of the Kaesong Municipal Administration and Economic Guidance Committee, said this garment factory built in Kaesong, a modern light industrial city, would make a contribution to the development of the economy and improvement of the people's living standard in the city.

Schoolhouse Built 'Adjacent to' Demarcation Line

*SK1704104690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1018 GMT
17 Apr 90*

[Text] Pyongyang April 17 (KCNA)—A school children's house has been built and opened its doors in Kaep'ung County, Kaesong municipality, adjacent to the Military Demarcation Line bisecting Korea.

The three-storeyed house of a peculiar architectural shape is located at the foot of scenic Mt. Taebong. It has a computer room, weak-current apparatus room and dozens of other rooms, a 600-seat theatre and athletic facilities.

Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il sent a truck, a tractor and many other facilities for practice and musical instruments to the house as gifts.

The house will contribute to consolidating the successes of school education by teaching the school children in the county rich knowledge of science and technology, literature and art and athletic skills.

There have been built in Kaesong extra-mural education centres for students including the Kaesong school children's palace, a gymnasium and a camp.

Grand-Scale Construction in Pyongyang Noted

*SK1804152590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1513 GMT
18 Apr 90*

[Text] Pyongyang April 18 (KCNA)—Pyongyang is assuming more magnificent and splendid looks entering the 90s.

A gigantic work to build modern high-rise apartment houses for 50,000 families by the end of '91 has been launched in nangnang and Kwangbok Streets and other districts of the capital.

It is accompanied by the construction of the three revolutions exhibition with a total floor space of some 80,000 square metres, many educational, cultural, health and public service establishments, nearly 40 kilometres long road including the 120 metres-wide boulevard of nangnang street and the construction of large structures of various kinds.

The grand project of the building of the capital city is associated with the deep loving care of the great leader President Kim Il-song and our party to provide the people with better living conditions.

Dear comrade Kim Chong-il, true to the noble intention of the great leader, initiated in person the project and took all possible steps to complete the construction of houses for 50,000 families in a short period.

The builders under the energetic guidance of comrade Kim Chong-il set about the building of apartment houses for 18,600 families and have completed the groundwork for 6,830 and carried out the frame assembling for some 580 in the first three months of this year.

The building of the boulevard of nangnang street, 120 metres wide and 5 kilometres long as well as 10 odd schools, kindergartens and creches is progressing in full force.

The current construction of the capital is unprecedented in scale.

Construction has greeted a great heyday in the 70s in Korea.

In the decade 40 industrial establishments with a total floor space of more than one million square metres, 50 grand monumental edifices, Nakwon and Chollima

Streets each lined with apartment houses for several thousand families and 20 other streets of high-rise apartment houses and roads were built in Pyongyang. The total floor space of apartment houses and public facilities built in the 80s is 2.3 times that in the 70s.

The scale of the construction of the capital which will be completed in the first two years of the 90s is 1.5 times that of the last three years of the 80s when several hundred monumental edifices made their appearance to the astonishment of the world people.

Pyongyang looks ever younger with the progress of construction which is growing in scale as years go by.

Investment in Rural Construction To Increase

*SK1904052790 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0457 GMT
19 Apr 90*

[Text] Pyongyang April 19 (KCNA)—Many families have moved into new houses recently at rural villages of Korea.

The villages nestling cosily at the sunny foot of hills are just like a picture.

The great leader president Kim Il-song said:
"Rural housing construction should be continued vigorously so that all the peasants can live in attractive, cozy and practical modern homes."

The housing condition of Korean peasants was very backward before the liberation in August 1945.

Most of them did not have houses worth mentioning.

They lived in straw-thatched cottages.

President Kim Il-song has wisely led rural construction, particularly the work of resolving the housing problem for the peasants.

He set it as one of the important tasks of the cultural revolution in the countryside to transform the old appearance of the countryside and turned a large investment to rural construction.

The state invested 4,330 million won to rural construction during the six-year plan (1971-1976). In this period modern houses for 472,000 families were built for peasants at state expense.

With the foundation of an independent national economy consolidated, the state investment in rural construction has steadily increased.

Many calcium silicate brick houses have been built in the countryside and the introduction of central heating and gas stepped up in rural communities, so that the life of the peasants could be further modernized and the looks of the countryside be renewed.

There are houses of culture, nurseries and kindergartens, bath houses, shops and other cultural and welfare establishments and public service facilities in all the villages.

Long ago bus and water services, electrification and radio-relay lines were introduced into the rural villages, TV networks covered all villages and clinics turned into hospitals there.

Newspapers, magazines and books are distributed to each family in the countryside.

A radical change has taken place in the living and rest conditions of the peasants.

The looks of the rural villages before the liberation can be seen only in the mock-up location streets for films.

Korean peasants now say that all the rural villages have been turned into modern socialist villages as good as town.

Students in South Protest on 19 Apr Anniversary

*SK1804154590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1534 GMT
18 Apr 90*

[Text] Pyongyang April 18 (KCNA)—More than 8,500 students of 27 universities in Seoul, Kwangju and Suncheon staged fierce anti-U.S., anti-"government" rallies and demonstrations on April 17 on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the April 19 popular uprising, according to a foreign press report from Seoul.

Some 7,000 students from 24 universities in Seoul held an anti-U.S., anti-"government" rally at Korea University that day and proclaimed "a week of protests" marking the April 19 resistance which toppled the Syngman Rhee dictatorial "regime."

Seen in the meeting place were a two-story-high banner showing a student walking away from a U.S. flag and a poster showing a student jabbing the U.S. president with a bamboo spear.

Students said the rally launched a series of protests marking the April 19 popular uprising and opposing the merger of the three parties, a product of the collusion between the U.S. imperialists and the ultra-rightist pro-American reactionary forces.

They denounced the three-party merger as a premeditated scheme of U.S. imperialism, as a move by the traitor No Tae-u to stay in power and prolong the remaining days of the colonial dependent "regime."

"Let's crush the three-party merger" as well as anti-U.S. slogans were heard repeatedly at the six-hour rally.

Effigies symbolizing the American flag, Bush, the traitor No Tae-u and the "Democratic Liberal Party" were burnt at the rally.

Students at Chonnam University in Kwangju fought, shouting "drive out Yankees" and "punish No Tae-u."

The anti-U.S., anti-"government" struggle of South Korean students is gaining in scope on the occasion of

the 30th anniversary of the April 19 popular uprising, and it is throwing the U.S. imperialists and the No group into uneasiness and panic.

ROK Youth Urged To Wage Anti-U.S. Struggle

*SK1804121390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1029 GMT
18 Apr 90*

[Text] Pyongyang April 18 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea and the Korean Students Committee extended warm compatriotic support and encouragement to the South Korean youth and students who have recorded a proud history of their heroic struggle for independence, democracy and reunification, deeply cherishing the noble idea and lesson of the April 19 uprising, and called upon them to fight on with full confidence in victory for a new, independent and democratic society, for a reunified, independent Korea.

These youth and student organizations of the DPRK today published an appeal to the South Korean youth and students on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the heroic April 19 uprising.

The April 19, 1960, uprising which led to the overthrow of the Syngman Rhee dictatorial regime was a heroic resistance which dealt a telling blow at the colonial fascist rule of U.S. imperialism and shook it to its very foundation and a historic praiseworthy action which signified the first victory in the history of the South Korean people's anti-U.S., anti-fascist struggle for democracy and occasioned a new turn in it.

Noting that none of the desires of the martyrs of the April 19 has yet been realized in South Korea, the appeal deplores the reality of South Korea where the dignity and sovereignty of the nation are encroached upon with foreign domination and interference becoming ever more undisguised, and worst violations of human rights in the world are witnessed as the military fascist tyranny is getting more brutal with the passage of time.

It is high time the South Korean youth and students sparked off the struggle for independence, democracy and reunification, displaying once again the noble soul and indomitable spirit of the April 19, the appeal says, and stresses:

The torch of struggle the fellow students in the South should uphold today in the spirit of the April 19 is independence against the U.S.

It is the United States which filched the gains of the April 19, and it is the U.S. imperialists who manipulated the emergence of the "Yusin" fascist dictatorship, of the military dictatorship of the "Fifth Republic" and the more truculent fascist dictatorship of the "Sixth Republic."

As long as the U.S. forces remain in South Korea and the U.S. military occupation and colonial rule over it continue the desire of the South Korean people for independence, democracy and reunification cannot be realized. This is the bitter lesson drawn from the April 19.

You should turn out daringly in a massive anti-U.S. resistance to get the U.S. forces withdrawn from South Korea, liquidate the U.S. colonial rule over it and make the South Korean society independent, in step with the powerful trend toward global independence.

Everywhere you should expose the hypocritical nature of the "U.S. troop cuts" formula and fight against the aggressive moves for arms buildup and plots to provoke a nuclear war.

You should struggle to destroy the No Tae-u military fascist dictatorship, the supporter of the U.S. imperialist colonial rule and a heinous strangler of human rights and democracy, and to establish a genuine democratic regime.

You should smash the "Democratic Liberal Party," a group of despicable political charlatans and fascists, and overthrow the "Sixth Republic."

You should fight resolutely for the abolition of the fascist "National Security Law" and all other evil laws and repressive machines, for freedom of speech, the press, assembly and association and for the unconditional release of patriotic students and democrats including Yim Su-kyong, Im Chong-sok, Mun Ik-hwan and Mun Kyu-hyon.

You should smash the "nordpolitik" and moves for "separate entry into the United Nations" and frustrate and thwart the moves to create "two Koreas."

The appeal stresses the need to defend the "National Council of Student Representatives" (Chondaehyop) and constantly increase its ranks, strengthen worker-student solidarity and peasant-student solidarity, form a united front with organizations of various movements and fight vigorously in concert in order to win victory in the struggle for independence, democracy and reunification.

Dailies Observe Anniversary of 19 Apr Uprising

*SK1904055590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0544 GMT
19 Apr 90*

[Text] Pyongyang April 19 (KCNA)—Dailies here today dedicate editorials to the 30th anniversary of the heroic April 19 popular uprising of the South Korean people.

The popular uprising was an explosion of long pent-up grievances and resentment of the South Korean people under the colonial fascist rule of the U.S. imperialists and their stooges and a massive anti-U.S., anti-fascist resistance involving millions of people of various strata for national sovereignty, new politics and new life.

Recalling that the participants of the uprising pressed toward the stronghold of the fascist dictatorship and finally overthrew the puppet regime of Syngman Rhee, an old stooge of the U.S. imperialists, the editorial of NODONG SINMUN stresses that this was the first victory won by the South Korean people in their anti-U.S., anti-fascist struggle.

The South Korean students and people have waged a powerful struggle for freedom, democracy and national reunification after the April popular uprising, but their desire for a new politics and new life has not yet been realised due to the unchanged aggressive nature of the U.S. Imperialists and their policy of occupation.

It is a most urgent task which brooks no delay to achieve national reunification by making the South Korean society independent and democratic, the editorial says, and stresses:

When all the patriotic, national democratic forces of South Korea rise in the struggle to put a period to the colonial domination of the U.S. imperialists, closely united under the banner of anti-U.S. struggle for independence, the U.S. imperialist aggressors will no longer be able to hold out in South Korea.

All the anti-fascist democratic forces of South Korea including the workers, peasants, students, religionists and dissident politicians should unite in one body and courageously fight to smash the alliance of the pro-American conservative reactionary forces, dissolve the "Democratic Liberal Party" seeking a one-party show and overthrow the military fascist rule.

All the Koreans in the North and the South and overseas desirous of reunification should unite closely in accordance with the national idea of peace, reunification and patriotism, vigorously wage the nationwide struggle to frustrate the "two Koreas" plot of the domestic and foreign separatists and reunify the country through the founding of a confederal state and, to begin with, actively take part in the national cause of pulling down the wall of division and opening the door of reunification.

MINJU CHOSON in its editorial stresses that the spirit of the April 19 resistance fighters remains alive in South Korea.

Meeting Marks Anniversary of 19 Apr Uprising

SK1904103890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1006 GMT
19 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 19 (KCNA)—A Pyongyang meeting commemorating the 30th anniversary of the April 19 popular uprising of the South Korean people was held today at the Central Youth Hall.

Present there were Yi Chong-ok, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and vice-president; Chong Chun-ki, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK

Central Committee and vice-premier of the Administration Council and vice-chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland [CPRF]; and other senior officials.

Yun Ki-pok, secretary of the WPK Central Committee and vice-chairman of the CPRF, delivered a report.

The heroic April popular uprising in which the South Korean students and people turned out massively and overthrew the Syngman Rhee fascist dictatorial regime 30 years ago was an eruption of their long pent-up grievances and resentment under the colonial fascist rule of the U.S. imperialists and their stooges and a nationwide anti-U.S., anti-fascist resistance for democracy to achieve an independent and democratic new politics and a new life, the reporter said, and went on:

The crowds who rose up in the popular resistance touched off by the "March 15 election rigging" of the puppet clique in 1960 staged a bloody resistance throughout South Korea, shouting "away with the corrupt politics!" "Let us set up a genuine democratic state!" "U.S., don't interfere in demonstrations!"

In their death-defying struggle, they raided and destroyed puppet ruling machines, repressive tools and anti-communist organizations, attacked the "U.S. operation mission" and the puppet capitol building and "National Assembly Building" and finally attacked "Chongwadae" ("presidential residence"), the stronghold of dictatorship, toppling the puppet regime of Syngman Rhee, an old stooge of the U.S. imperialists.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song said:

"The April popular uprising clearly demonstrated the heroic mettle of the South Korean people and proved that if the masses pool their strength and rise against the oppressors, they can assuredly crush any enemy stronghold."

The April popular uprising dealt a heavy blow at the colonial fascist rule of the U.S. imperialists and their stooges and contributed to greatly encouraging the youth and students and other people of different countries in the struggle against imperialist aggressors and fascist rulers.

Over the past 30 years since the uprising, the South Korean people and students have vigorously fought against U.S. imperialism and fascism. However, the noble desire of the April fighters has not yet been realised.

The U.S. imperialists have maintained the colonial fascist rule by openly interfering in the internal affairs of South Korea and replacing one fascist dictator with another.

The No Tae-u puppet clique, manipulated by the U.S. imperialists, is harshly suppressing the patriotic students and people desirous of independence, democracy and reunification including those who call for North-South contact and dialogue and those who introduce the

chuche idea and the northern half of the country, and converting South Korea into a dark land where human rights and democracy are trampled underfoot and fascism holds sway while further fascistizing South Korean society under the fascist "security-oriented politics".

In order to realise at an early date the noble purpose cried for by the April 19 fighters on the streets of resistance 30 years ago, it is imperative, first of all, to terminate the U.S. imperialists' military occupation and colonial rule in South Korea and restore the sovereignty of the nation.

The South Korean students and people should more vigorously fight to drive the U.S. imperialist aggressors out of South Korea and liquidate their colonial rule, holding higher the banner of anti-U.S. independence.

The U.S. imperialists must withdraw from South Korea, taking along their troops, nuclear weapons and all other aggression forces, rather than pay lip service to "peace" and "arms cutback."

The Japanese reactionaries must discard the foolish dream of bringing Asia again under their domination by joining in the U.S. imperialists' policy of war and give up the moves to stage a comeback to South Korea.

The U.S. imperialists must not help the No Tae-u military fascist dictatorship forsaken by the South Korean people. The puppet clique must immediately step down as demanded by the South Korean people.

If the South Korean authorities truly want reunification, they must immediately accept our proposal for pulling down the concrete wall and realising free travel and complete opening between the North and the South, stressed the reporter.

Telephone Message to South on Delivering Letter
SK1904100590 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
0800 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Telephone message from Yi Song-ho, acting chairman of the DPRK Central Committee of the Korean Red Cross Society, to Kim Sang-hyop, chairman of the South Korean National Red Cross Society]

[Text] To Kim Sang-hyop, chairman of the Korean [Taehan] National Red Cross:

According to the request of Han Pil-hwa, DPRK people's sportswoman, I am sending you a letter written by her to her brother, Mr. Han Pil-song, residing in South Korea. I hope that you will deliver this letter to him.

Also, with this opportunity, I express regret that you enclosed the letter by Mr. Han Pil-song to his sister Han Pil-hwa in the letter you sent us on 28 March without any prior notice. While sending a telephone notice to our side on 26 March, you did not clearly reveal the fact that your side was going to deliver Mr. Han Pil-song's letter

to his sister, and also on the day the letter was being delivered, there was not even one word of consent about this.

Moreover, when our side in the past requested that your side deliver our letters, through your Korean National Red Cross, to your side's legal organizations, your side carried out inhumane and discreditable acts by giving unreasonable excuses and not delivering our letters.

Even though your side sent Mr. Han Pil-song's letter in an irregular way and left an unfavorable precedent between the two sides, we delivered the letter to Han Pil-hwa from the noble desire of alleviating even a spark of pain and unhappiness that our dispersed families, relatives, and friends are experiencing.

Allowing sister and brother Han Pil-hwa and Han Pil-song to exchange letters and allow them to reunite are issues that must be dealt with and resolved within the framework of the North-South Red Cross talks. Moreover, I think that it will be appropriate to deal with and resolve this issue when an agreement in the North-South Red Cross talks is achieved and many families and relatives who are dispersed in the North and South can confirm each other's whereabouts, meet freely, and reunite with each other according to their intentions.

However, considering that the issue of brother and sister Han Pil-song and Han Pil-hwa was of national interest even 20 years ago, and that both met with each other in Japan, and mother and son talked to each other through the international telephone service, regardless of the Red Cross talks, we expressed our generosity of regarding this issue as a special case and dealing with this issue separately even before the issue of dispersed families, relatives, and friends of the North and South are resolved.

I think that your side should learn a lesson from your unreasonable and insincere act. I also express the hope that your side will actively work so that the desire of the dispersed families, relatives, and friends of the North and South can be realized as soon as possible.

[Signed] Yi Song-ho, acting chairman of the DPRK Central Committee of the Korean Red Cross Society
[Dated] 19 April 1990

Daily Assails Crackdown on KBS Unionists

SK1904054190 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0518 GMT
19 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 19 (KCNA)—The No Tae-u fascist clique cracked down with a turnout of police force on the unionists of the "Korea Broadcasting System" (KBS) in South Korea who were protesting the "inauguration" of the "government"-patronized president, and whisked away 117 of them including the chairman of the press union, according to a report.

MINJU CHOSON in a commentary today brands this outrage as an unpardonable repressive act to block freedom and democratization of the press.

Recalling that the "president of the KBS" inaugurated by the puppets had been the managing director of SEOUL SINMUN till some time ago and a thorough-paced stooge of the fascist clique who had taken the lead in turning the newspaper into a "government"-subsidized, reactionary one representing the anti-popular, reactionary stand of the puppet government and engaging itself in false reports, the news analyst says:

It is entirely just for the "KBS" unionists to reject and protest the inauguration of So Ki-won as "president."

In putting down at the point of the bayonet the righteous demand of the "KBS" unionists for the resignation of the "government"-patronized president the No group schemes to make So Ki-won stay in the post of "president" on all accounts and thus keep a tight hold on the "KBS" as a tool on its payroll.

With no amount of fascist crackdown, however, can the No group bring to their knees the South Korean pressmen and people who are fighting for the freedom and democratization of the press.

It must immediately stop the brutal repression and unconditionally release the unwarrantably arrested "KBS" unionists and figures of different circles.

U.S., South Stage War Games Against North

*SK1804155090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1540 GMT
18 Apr 90*

[Text] Pyongyang April 18 (KCNA)—The Pacific Airforce command of the U.S. imperialist aggression forces staged another provocative aerial electronic warfare exercise simulating an attack on the North for five days from April 12 by sending many planes to the sky above South Korea from overseas bases, according to military sources.

Hurled into this war game were formations of "F-15" fighter-bombers from overseas bases, "F-16" fighter-bombers belonging to the U.S. Seventh Airforce, various types of electronic jamming planes and other planes, more than 600 in all.

On the other hand, the U.S. imperialists on April 17 brought formations of Okinawa-based "F-15" fighter-bombers to South Korea and staged a joint strike exercise aimed at surprise attacks on the objects in the operational and tactical depth of the Northern half of Korea in coordination with "F-16" fighter-bombers belonging to the U.S. Seventh Airforce.

The South Korean puppets on the 17th massively mobilized a puppet army corps, various types of planes and warships and staged a military exercise against the North in the East coast areas including Kangnung area, South Korean Kangwon Province.

Such unceasing reckless war rackets of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets vividly show that they are persistently pursuing a he [as received] policy of confrontation and war.

PRC Navy 'Commissar' Heads Group to Pyongyang

*SK1704214790 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1512 GMT
17 Apr 90*

[Text] Pyongyang April 17 (KCNA)—A delegation of Korean lawyers led by Hyon Hong-sam, vice-chairman of the Korean Democratic Lawyers Association, left here today to visit China.

A friendship visiting group of the Chinese People's Liberation Army [CPLA] led by Colonel General Li Yaowen, political commissar of the Navy of the CPLA, arrived here today.

Yi Chong-ok Bids Farewell to PRC Ambassador

*SK1804113790 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1027 GMT
18 Apr 90*

[Text] Pyongyang April 18 (KCNA)—Vice-President Yi Chong-ok met and conversed with outgoing Chinese Ambassador to Korea Wen Yezhan when the latter paid him a farewell call at the Mansudae Assembly Hall today.

Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Cha Pong-chu was present there.

O Chin-u Marks Anniversary of Cuban Victory

*SK1804112390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1023 GMT
18 Apr 90*

[Text] Pyongyang April 18 (KCNA)—Vice Marshal of the Korean People's Army O Chin-u, minister of people's armed forces, sent a message of greetings to General Raul Castro Ruz, minister of Revolutionary Armed Forces of the Republic of Cuba, on the occasion of the 29th anniversary of the victory in the Playa Giron battle.

The victory in the battle powerfully demonstrated the revolutionary will of the Cuban people who do not want to live again under the fascist tyranny of a pro-American puppet but to defend at whatever cost the gains of revolution won at the cost of blood and shape their destiny by themselves, the message says.

The message sincerely wishes the minister and the officers and men of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Cuba greater success in firmly defending socialist Cuba from the military threat and blockade of the enemy under the slogan "let us live and work in the spirit of Playa Giron!" And expresses the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between the armies of the two countries will further expand and develop under the banner of proletarian internationalism.

Chong Song-nam Attends Cuban Victory Anniversary
SK1904054790 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0523 GMT
19 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 19 (KCNA)—A meeting marking the 29th anniversary of the victory of the Cuban people in the Playa Giron battle was held in Pyongyang on April 18.

Addressing the meeting, Chong Song-nam, minister of External Economic Affairs and chairman of the Korea-Cuba Solidarity Committee, said: The victory of the Cuban people in the Playa Giron battle showed that the strength of the people who turn out in the struggle for freedom and liberation with arms in their hands is invincible and that the imperialists can never subjugate a people closely rallied around the leader with the conviction of the justice of their cause.

The fraternal Cuban people, he noted, are firmly defending the gains of the revolution and confidently advancing along the road of socialism, closely united around the Communist Party of Cuba headed by respected Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz.

He stated that the party, government and people of Cuba clarified their invariable determination to defend to the last the national sovereignty and independence at any cost and are in full readiness to answer the blows of the enemy with blows.

Noting that the Korean people bitterly denounce the U.S. imperialists' anti-Cuba moves as an undisguised encroachment upon the national sovereignty of Cuba and a criminal aggressive act threatening peace and security in Central America and the rest of the world and strongly demand a stop to them, he expressed full support and militant solidarity for the just cause of the Cuban people.

Juan Jose Leon Vega, Cuban ambassador to Korea, spoke next.

He said that the Cuban people fully support the new national reunification proposal put forward by Comrade Kim Il-song in his New Year address.

Condemning the false propaganda of the South Korean puppets that there is no concrete wall, he stressed that the concrete wall exists in actuality.

He denounced the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique for resorting to all manner of aggressive moves such as "Team Spirit" joint military exercises in a bid to keep the Korean peninsula divided into two for ever, instead of lending ears to the voice of the world's people that Korea is one.

He declared that the Korean people under the wise guidance of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the Cuban people under the wise leadership of Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz will further strengthen friendship and solidarity and continuously advance, upholding the banner of socialism. If the U.S. imperialists ignite a war

of aggression in Asia and America, the peoples of the two countries will defeat the enemy once again, he stressed.

A letter to Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the Council of State and president of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba, was adopted at the meeting.

A photo exhibition and a film show were held Wednesday.

A soldiers meeting was held on April 17 at the unit of the Korean People's Army to which Comrade Kim Yun-sik belongs.

Education Official Heads Delegation to Nicaragua
SK1804115190 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1028 GMT
18 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 18 (KCNA)—A DPRK Government delegation led by Chairman of the Education Commission Choe Ki-yong left here today to attend the inaugural ceremony of the president in Nicaragua.

It was seen off at the airport by Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Song Ho-kyong and Nicaraguan Ambassador to Korea Victor Selva Gutierrez and a Soviet Embassy official.

News Conference at Czechoslovak Embassy Noted
SK1804045690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0433 GMT
18 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 18 (KCNA)—A press conference was held at the Czechoslovak Embassy here on April 17.

Present there were newspaper, news agency and radio reporters in Pyongyang.

Ambassador Zbynek Schee briefed the reporters on the issue of the establishment of the European Security Committee proposed by Czechoslovakia.

Questions were put at the press conference.

Articles on Anniversary of Syrian Independence
SK1704104090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1014 GMT
17 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 17 (KCNA)—Papers here today dedicate articles to the 44th anniversary of the independence of Syria.

Pointing out that the past 44 years were proud years of struggle and advance for the Syrian people, the author of the article says:

The Zionists and the imperialist reactionaries have viciously manoeuvred to prevent the triumphant advance of the Syrian revolution. However, the Syrian people have reliably defended the gains of the revolution

and made persevering efforts for social progress, frustrating moves of the enemies at every step.

Especially, they have made remarkable advance in all realms of social life including the economy and culture under the leadership of their leader Hafiz al-Asad since the corrective measure was taken.

They are unbendingly advancing without vacillation or hesitation, firmly convinced of the justice of their cause and with full confidence in victory. In a recent speech, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad declared that it is the firm will of the government and people of Syria to advance along a democratic and socialist road.

The Syrian Government and people are actively struggling for territorial integrity and peace in the Middle East against imperialism and Zionism.

The Korean people will as ever actively strive to develop the friendly relations between Korea and Syria.

A signed article of MINJU CHOSON says:

The Korean people wish the Syrian people greater success in their struggle to oppose the imperialists and Zionists, retake the occupied Arab land and achieve the independent development of the country.

Wonsan Meeting Marks Syrian Independence Day

SK1904053390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0510 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 19 (KCNA)—A meeting marking the 44th anniversary of the independence of Syria was held in Wonsan, a port city on the East Coast.

Syrian ambassador to Korea Yasir Al-Farha was present on invitation.

Also present were Pak Tong-chun, vice-chairman of the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries and vice-chairman of the Korea-Syria Friendship Association, Kim Yo-hyon, secretary of the Kangwon Provincial Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, and other officials concerned and working people in Wonsan.

Speeches were exchanged at the meeting.

A congratulatory letter to the President of the Syrian Arab Republic was adopted there.

WPK Sends Greetings on Anniversary of SWAPO

SK1804110590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1020 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 18 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea today sent a message of greetings to the Central Committee of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) on its 30th founding anniversary.

The message says the foundation of the organization was a momentous event of historical significance in the struggle of the Namibian people for national independence.

Over the past 30 years after its founding the SWAPO, under the correct leadership of President SAM NUJOMA, has waged a prolonged and bloody struggle before it liquidated colonialism and racism in Namibia and achieved the independence of the country, it says, adding: The Korean people rejoice over this brilliant victory as their own achievement.

It expresses the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two parties and two peoples forged in the common struggle of many years will grow stronger and develop in the interests of world peace and the cause of anti-imperialism and independence.

The message hopes for great success in the struggle to solidify the national independence and build a prosperous, new Namibia.

South Korea

North-South Confidence-Building Plan Studied

SK1904094290 Seoul YONHAP in English 0920 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Seoul, April 19 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea's latest draft of a plan to boost confidence between the southern and northern halves of Korea may result in opening a new channel of South-North dialogue, a daily newspaper commented here Thursday. The government is working on confidence building measures as a precursor to arms control, basing its plan on the European model, the vernacular TONG-A ILBO said in an unconfirmed report.

"The Korean and U.S. Governments have had discussions about this policy already," the paper quoted a highly-placed unnamed official as saying. "The two governments will closely cooperate in an attempt to establish another channel for inter-Korean dialogue focused on confidence building military measures."

The draft requires South and North Korea to notify each other of major troop movements and large-scale mobile exercises, to invite observers to military exercises, and to station observers at major military bases to allow frequent on-the-spot checks, the paper said. Under the draft, the two Koreas would agree to withdraw all their troops from the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) and ban offensive weapons from the DMZ.

The ultimate goal of the plan is to freeze or reduce offensive weapons and troops on both sides of the divided peninsula to a level of "reasonable sufficiency," or a level of military power insufficient to attack but enough for defense, the paper said.

The daily reported the government drafted the plan hastily in the belief that the U.S.-Soviet summit in Washington in May would accelerate arms control talks in East Asia, particularly on the Korean peninsula. It said the European model is grounded on political confidence building measures and will develop into substantial arms reduction. Thirty-five European countries have implemented arms control accords through confidence boosting measures carried out by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the Warsaw Pact, the paper said.

It said it doubts that the European model of arms control could be successfully applied to the Korean peninsula because the national interests of not only both Koreas but also the United States, China, Japan and the Soviet Union are involved.

Pyongyang-Moscow Ties 'Cooled Substantially'

*SK1904083090 Seoul YONHAP in English 0745 GMT
19 Apr 90*

[Text] Seoul, April 19 (OANA-YONHAP)—Relations between North Korea and the Soviet Union have cooled substantially since Pyongyang lodged a strong protest with Moscow over approaches to Seoul, a South Korean intelligence official said Thursday. Pyongyang and Moscow relations are "very uncomfortable" at present and the two allies have begun issuing slanderous news reports about each other, he said.

For instance, the Soviet reformist weekly magazine "ARGUMENTY I FAKTY" recently reported that the whole of North Korea was a museum dedicated to North Korean leader Kim Il-song and that economic data and claims of achievements made by Pyongyang were totally false. The magazine said Kim's partisan struggle against Japanese rule was waged as head of a guerrilla unit and that he was a captain in the Soviet Army, a much less flattering portrait than that painted by Kim's minions.

Pyongyang harshly criticized Moscow's approach to Seoul in an editorial in the April 6 issue of NODONG SINMUN, the Workers party organ. The North Korean paper said it was unimaginable that the Soviet Union, the first nation to recognize North Korea as the sole legitimate government on the Korean peninsula, would side with the two Korea policy by breaking basic principles and recognizing South Korea.

A second intelligence official said the editorial was unprecedented criticism of Moscow while the first said it was an expression of North Korea's dissatisfaction with its ally.

It is reported here that the new North Korean ambassador to the Soviet Union has not presented his credentials to President Mikhail Gorbachev although he has been in the Soviet capital for about 50 days.

KYONGHYANG DAILY NEWS, quoting an unnamed diplomatic source, said Ambassador Son Song-pil has

not been allowed to present his credentials although he arrived in Moscow early last month and that this is an extremely unusual event between the two allies. The source was quoted as saying the diplomatic situation seems to have been purposely created by the Kremlin and that Son was being severely restricted in his official diplomatic activities. In consideration of the situation, the Kremlin has asked Kong No-myong, the head of South Korean consular department in Moscow, to refrain from engaging openly in official activities, the source reportedly said.

The freeze in Pyongyang-Moscow relations was also seen in that North Korean officials did not invite any of the Soviet residents in North Korea to events commemorating Kim Il-song's birthday on Sunday.

While publicly criticizing the Soviet Union, North Korea has redoubled its diplomatic approaches to African and Latin American nations. High-level North Korean officials, including premier Yi Chong-uk and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam, toured some 10 countries, including Tanzania, Namibia and Zambia, recently to strengthen relations with those countries.

North Increases 'Surveillance' on Foreigners

*SK1804124590 Seoul YONHAP in English 1222 GMT
18 Apr 90*

[Text] Seoul, April 18 (YONHAP)—North Korean authorities recently stepped up surveillance on the activities of the foreigners based in major North Korean cities in an effort to ward off possible spread of the news regarding reforms in the East European countries, an intelligence official here said Wednesday.

The official said a conclusion drawn from informations originating from various sources has it that North Korean authorities are keeping close watch on foreigners to make confidential inquiries on their activities and acquaintances with North Korean residents.

He said the measure is believed to be aimed at securing evidences necessary for deporting those foreigners who prove to have spread critical views about the existing establishment of North Korea.

He said there are now about 2,000 foreigners in North Korea, including members of foreign diplomatic corps.

The official said that the surveillance is conducted not only on the officials of the foreign missions but also on foreign engineers and trainees.

People from the Soviet Union and other East European countries, where drastic political changes are under way, are the major targets of the surveillance, according to the official. Chinese people are not so tightly watched, he said.

North Korean officials, he said, are believed to have come to guard against the foreigners in the wake that Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev had a meeting with

Kim Yong-sam during the South Korean ruling party co-leader's recent visit to Moscow and Soviet officials started to openly mention signs of a possible move by Pyongyang to adopt open policies.

He also said that North Korean leaders seem to have decided to tighten their internal control as some of the 1,700 North Korean technicians and students staying in the Soviet Union came to show sympathy to Soviet press criticism against the North Korean system.

The North Korean authorities have deployed scores of security agents in each of the universities and colleges since early this year when a small-scale demonstration was reported and leaflets criticizing President Kim Il-sung's leadership were found in Pyongyang campuses, he said.

Additions to Seoul, Moscow Consular Departments

*SK1904080590 Seoul YONHAP in English 0723 GMT
19 Apr 90*

[Text] Seoul, April 19 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea and the Soviet Union have agreed to add one more member to their consular departments, bringing the total up to five, the Foreign Ministry said Thursday.

"The Soviets made the proposal in late February, citing the heavy workload, and Korea agreed early last month," ministry spokesman Chong Ui-yong said, declining to explain why the announcement had been delayed until now.

Choe Il-song, a first secretary, will join the Korean consular department in Moscow on April 28, Chong said.

The two nations had set the number of staff at four in a protocol signed last December on establishing the departments in the two capitals.

Soviets To Visit Seeking Economic Cooperation

*SK1804025690 Seoul YONHAP in English 0229 GMT
18 Apr 90*

[Text] Seoul, April 18 (YONHAP)—A Soviet Government economic delegation will visit South Korea in May or June, Chong Chu-yong, founder of the Hyundai Business Group, said Tuesday.

Arriving at Kimpo International Airport from a 10-day trip to the Soviet Union, Chong told reporters a 10-member delegation led by an economic affairs minister would visit Seoul in May or June.

The Soviet mission will tour industrial complexes and plant facilities and seek bilateral cooperation in various fields such as electronics, chemistry and textiles, Chong said.

The visit will help promote economic cooperation between the two nations since the team will include officials responsible for economic policies, he said.

Chong said he had agreed with the Soviet petrochemicals minister for Hyundai to participate in a 2 billion-U.S.-dollar project to set up petrochemical plants in Tobolsk, western Siberia.

Hyundai will do 600 million dollars of work on designing and construction of a polypropylene plant beginning in July, he said.

In addition, Hyundai may invest 30 million dollars, or 5 percent of the capital, in a company to run the petrochemical complex.

Combustion engineering of the United States and Neste Oy [name as received] of Finland are to be partners in the project.

Direct Sea Lane To Be Discussed With USSR

*SK1904085290 Seoul YONHAP in English 0825 GMT
19 Apr 90*

[Text] Seoul, April 19 (YONHAP)—Seven South Korean shipowners will fly to Moscow on May 5 for private working-level talks in preparation for opening a direct line between the two nations, an official of the Korea Maritime and Port Administration (KMPA) said Thursday. The mission will discuss opening of the direct sea lane with officials of the Far Eastern Shipping Co. (FESCO), the official said. During the seven-day trip, they will tour Vostochny and Nakhodka in order to see port facilities and study their ability to handle container-ships, he said. Hyundai Merchant Marine Co. and Chunkyung Shipping Co. will decide the type of vessels to put on the route based on the survey, he said.

The mission, led by Mun Ik-sang, Hyundai vice president, includes Kim Chong-hun, president of Chunkyung, and Chong Hae-yong, an official of the Korea Shipowners' Association. These three will return to Seoul on May 16.

The third Korea-Soviet shipping consultative meeting is to be held here July 16-20 to discuss the matter at government level, he said.

USSR Handball Exchanges Agreement Reached

*SK1804010090 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
18 Apr 90 p 2*

[Text] Korea and the Soviet Union recently signed an agreement on handball exchange, Kim Chong-ha, president of the Korea Handball Federation said Monday.

Kim, who returned Monday from the Soviet Union, said he and his Soviet counterpart Vladimir Krivkov reached an agreement to hold regular handball matches between the two countries.

Under the agreement, the Soviet Union men team will participate in the International Olympic Committee (IOC) President's Cup Handball Championship here next year, while Korea will visit the Soviet Union for an international competition this December in Minsk.

Trade Union President Leaves To Visit Poland

SK1804021490 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
18 Apr 90 p 3

[Text] Pak Chong-kun, president of the Federation of Korean Trade Unions (FKTU), left for a 10-day visit to Poland yesterday at the invitation of the Polish trade union Solidarity.

During his stay in Poland, Pak will attend the second national convention of Solidarity, slated for April 19-24, a FKTU spokesman said.

Pak will meet Solidarity leader Lech Walesa and other East-bloc union leaders, the spokesman said.

Pak may invite Walesa to visit Korea, the spokesman said.

Subscription to European Development Bank Set

SK1904034690 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
19 Apr 90 p 8

[By staff reporter Pak Chang-sok]

[Text] With D-1.000 [as published] left to go until the integration of internal markets within the EC, the finance administration has got down to business of putting the final touches to its long-term comprehensive strategy to fight possible hardened pressures from the powerful unity.

As a major step to lessen probable friction with the member countries of the European Community, Korea plans to subscribe a certain amount of money to the embryonic European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), which will come into being probably next year.

Korea's subscription will be 0.6 to 0.7 percent of the aggregate capital estimated at about 12 billion U.S. dollars.

The EBRD, which is likely to be founded in the first half of next year, will be joined by 12 insider countries of the EC and scores of outsider nations. Outsider countries include the United States, Japan, the Soviet Union, East European countries, and some countries from other areas.

The EBRD aims at providing financial and technical support to the East European nations now undergoing political and economic upheavals, ignited by Soviet leader Gorbachev's perestroika and glasnost.

Korea already signed an agreement on the founding of the all-European bank when it attended a preparation meeting last month. The Finance Ministry will seek parliamentary approval for Korea's subscription to the bank by the end of this year.

The government will step up administrative support to banking institutions for their early advance into the European markets, with a plan of completing their market foray before March 1, 1993, when EC market

unity may take effect.' At present, there are 48 branches and subsidiaries of Korean banking institutions, and securities and insurance firms in six countries, including Britain and West Germany.

Finance Ministry officials say that pertinent financial businesses need to make inroads into the European markets as soon as possible out of an assumption that the current Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) may wind up its protracted negotiations on a wide gamut of tariffs in service areas within this year. [passage omitted]

Administrative efforts may be doubled to promote the expansion of business networks through the form of mergers or acquisitions.

Korea will also positively cope with foreign pressures to open its markets for local securities and insurance firms wider to foreigners. The government will speed up the projected internationalization and globalization of Korean capital markets so as to effectively cope with possible pressure from the European countries after market integration, officials say.

U.S. May Not Name Korea Unfair Trade Partner

SK1904013090 Seoul YONHAP in English 0104 GMT
19 May 90

[Text] Seoul, April 19 (OANA-YONHAP)—The United States will drop plans to designate South Korea a nation practicing unfair trade in government procurement if Korea applies to join the agreement on government procurement under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), U.S. Trade officials said here Wednesday. During the second of two days of working-level trade talks at the Foreign Ministry, the U.S. side said it was retreating from its earlier position of naming Korea an unfair trader under the U.S. Trade Act on condition that Korea supplies GATT with a list of government procurement projects by June.

The two sides agreed to form a specialists' committee in the near future to resolve technical problems that might arise in the course of importing U.S.-grown farm produce. The Americans claimed that produce imports are restricted by complicated quarantine procedures. Specialists from both sides will discuss quarantine and food sanitation in a meeting in Seoul late in May. They promised the United States would positively cooperate to resume imports of Korean pears, which were banned entry in October last year, and apples, which were also banned for quarantine problems.

During the talks, the U.S. officials requested opening of the insurance brokerage business, easing of procedures for foreign participation in telecommunications consulting and abolition of import quotas on movies, but the requests were denied.

The Koreans briefed the Americans on a government package plan aimed at boosting the domestic economy to dissipate U.S. fears that the plan may slow down Seoul's market opening.

The two sides agreed to enhance mutual cooperation for success of the multilateral Uruguay Round trade negotiations this year.

Tokyo Told To Take 'Progressive Attitude'

SK1804093890 Seoul YONHAP in English 0845 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Seoul, April 18 (YONHAP)—South Korea has told Japan it is considering postponing a meeting between the foreign ministers of the two nations scheduled for the end of this month in Seoul unless the Japanese Government shows a "progressive attitude" on improving the legal status of Koreans living in Japan, it was learned Wednesday.

Seoul told Tokyo the meeting would be put off unless Japan took a positive attitude in an unofficial high-level officials' meeting to be held here Friday, a foreign ministry official said.

The Korean government has conveyed its position to the Japanese Government that basic principles on improving the legal status of Koreans resident in Japan and of their offspring must be agreed on by the two sides before President No Tae-u's visit to Tokyo, slated for the end of May.

The threat to defer the foreign ministers' talks came as the Japanese are showing a lukewarm attitude and strong protests have erupted both at home and in Korean communities in Japan against Seoul's "soft" attitude.

In a departure from its stated position, the Japanese side recently became more rigidly stubborn on the matter of abolishing what Koreans call the "four evil systems"—fingerprinting, repatriation of criminals, reentry permits and the obligation to carry an alien registration card at all times.

The regulations apply equally to all resident foreigners, but the Koreans argue that for historical reasons they should be exempt.

In the last high-level unofficial talks, held in Tokyo last month, Japan agreed in principle to give third-generation Koreans and their progeny the same permanent resident status as it has given first- and second-generation Koreans.

Without a change in Japan's rigid attitude, the working-level talks on Friday may collapse, the official said.

Although Korea virtually withdrew a demand for abolition of the "four evil systems" and instead proposed flexible application of the law, the Japanese became more adamant, he said.

The question of the legal status of Korean residents in Japan has been a major diplomatic issue between the two countries since 1965, when Seoul and Tokyo normalized relations.

The 1965 treaty guaranteed the rights of first- and second-generation Koreans to live as permanent residents in Japan, but failed to protect the rights of their children and succeeding generations.

Korea insists that third-generation Koreans be automatically given permanent resident status and no longer be fingerprinted while Japan sticks to its long-held position that it cannot give them preferential treatment over other foreign nationals.

A requirement that all foreign nationals over 16 years old provide fingerprints for an alien registration certificate to be carried out at all times had provoked protests of unfairness from Koreans born and raised in Japan. Only criminal suspects among Japanese are subject to fingerprinting.

The 677,000 Koreans in Japan, including three third-generation Koreans, comprise 70 percent of the foreign population in Japan.

Agreement 'In Principle' on Koreans in Japan

SK1904100090 Seoul YONHAP in English 0927 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Seoul, April 19 (YONHAP)—South Korea's ambassador to Japan hinted Thursday that Tokyo has agreed in principle to grant permanent resident status to third-generation Koreans and their progeny. "The issue of permanent resident status for third-generation Koreans and their posterity is under negotiation and has yet to be finalized, but it could be regarded that both sides have reached an agreement on the matter in principle," Yi Won-kyong told a press conference.

Yi was in Seoul for consultations with his government prior to President No Tae-u's visit to Japan, slated for late May. He was commenting on published reports of dissension inside the Japanese Government over granting resident status to every Korean generation in Japan. Some reportedly want to give the status only to third-generation Koreans.

"Our position is that the status should be given to posterity of the third-generation Koreans and I do not think the Japanese Government's stance on the matter is becoming tough," the envoy said.

Under a 1965 pact between the two governments, first- and second-generation Koreans in Japan were given permanent resident status but both sides agreed only to negotiate by January 1991 on their posterity. The first generation are Koreans who were taken to Japan for forced labor during Japanese rule of Korea. He said final settlement of the question of Korean residents in Japan

needs a political solution, suggesting decisions by top leaders of both governments would help solve the problem.

Asked about the removal of institutional discrimination against Korean residents, including fingerprinting, Yi replied, "I do not think there was satisfactory progress." Koreans complain that they are also subject to deportation if they are convicted of a crime, re-entry permits and mandatory alien registration cards in addition to fingerprinting, just like all other resident foreigners.

"We are doing our best to make No's visit to Japan a turning point to clear up past vestiges," Yi said.

Earlier in the year, No hinted his Tokyo visit would be called off if outstanding issues between the two countries were not solved. Both governments held working-level talks to settle the issues but were wide apart.

Talks on Korean Residents in Japan Postponed

*SK1904061890 Seoul YONHAP in English 0523 GMT
19 Apr 90*

[Text] Seoul, April 19 (YONHAP)—An informal meeting of ranking South Korean and Japanese officials scheduled for Friday [20 April] in Seoul to discuss the legal status of third-generation Koreans and their posterity in Japan has been postponed, the Foreign Ministry announced Thursday.

A ranking ministry official said both countries agreed that Japan needs more time for related authorities to reach a consensus, adding that Tokyo on Wednesday accepted Seoul's proposal to delay the meeting until a date to be decided later. The official said, however, there is hardly any possibility that the foreign ministers' conference scheduled for later this month will also be postponed.

Seoul and Tokyo have been debating the issue with little progress since normalizing relations in 1965. Seoul insists that Korean citizens born in Japan automatically be given permanent resident status and exempted from fingerprinting requirements and other discriminatory measures.

PPD Urges Japan To Compensate A-Bomb Victims

*SK1904094590 Seoul YONHAP in English 0735 GMT
19 Apr 90*

[Text] Seoul, April 19 (YONHAP)—Kim Tae-chung's Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD) called on the Japanese Government Thursday to take a positive attitude on compensation for Koreans injured in the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945.

Rep. Cho Se-hyong, chief policy-maker of the PPD, issued a statement demanding that during a meeting of the Korean and Japanese Foreign Ministers slated for

April 30 the Japanese agree to compensate Koreans injured during World War II in addition to the victims of Nagasaki and Hiroshima.

Japan should guarantee the legal status of third-generation Koreans and should help Koreans in Sakhalin visit the birthplace of their ancestors, he said.

It is estimated that some 430,000 Koreans were killed between 1910 and 1945, when Korea was a Japanese colony. Some 43,000 Koreans were shipped to Sakhalin, where they were pressed into labor, during World War II. Most of them were unable to return home after the war.

Cho said the Japanese had acted in bad faith on compensation by insisting their responsibility was fulfilled with the Korea-Japan agreement in 1965, when the Japanese Government gave the Korean Government 300 million U.S. Dollars.

He noted that in 1987 the United States gave 20,000 dollars to each Japanese-American detained during the war, a total of 1.5 billion dollars in compensation for its wrongdoings, and Japan gave each Taiwanese-Japanese soldier or his family 2 million yen (12,700 dollars), a total of 60 billion yen (381 million dollars).

'Efforts To Achieve Opposition Unity' Underway

*SK1804065890 Seoul YONHAP in English 0608 GMT
18 Apr 90*

[Text] Seoul, April 18 (OANA-YONHAP)—The opposition Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD) has decided to put off its national party convention, scheduled for late this month, in order to concentrate on efforts to achieve opposition unity in South Korea.

"We have decided to answer the people's call for a united opposition," party spokesman Kim Tae-sik said, adding the national convention would not be convened before the official founding of the Democratic Party, now in the making by lawmakers from the now-defunct Reunification Democratic Party and other forces.

The PPD's national convention is likely to be held early in June, because the Democratic Party is to be inaugurated late in May.

Political observers say the PPD's postponement of the convention is designed to meet the mounting call for a single opposition party that can hold in check the giant ruling party born from the merger of three parties, including two former opposition parties.

Wednesday's decision, in a joint session of lawmakers and party affairs committee members, was also made in response to a growing signature-collection campaign in the party for postponing the convention until the realization of opposition unity, the observers say.

For all the PPD efforts, they say, the question of opposition unity will take some time to be resolved as opposition figures demand the retreat of party President

Kim Tae-chung into the rear of politics as a precondition and as some people argue for the merger of the PPD and the party in the making.

Kim Tae-chung was quoted as saying in Wednesday's meeting that remarkable progress was being made in recruiting former leaders of opposition parties and that postponement of the convention was needed to give more time and energy to opposition unity.

Most lawmakers who took to the podium during the meeting demanded the convention be put off.

Some warned that the on-going petition drive might give the public the impression of a split in party ranks, while others said the Democratic Party's argument for a party-to-party merger betrayed its reluctance to unite with the PPD.

Kim Yong-sam Ends Boycott of Party Duties

SK1904081590 Seoul YONHAP in English 0730 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Seoul, April 19 (YONHAP)—Ruling party co-leader Kim Yong-sam, issuing a call for unity, declared the end of a two-week boycott of his daily duties as head of the Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) Thursday.

Kim, who had been making a show of his displeasure over the way the party was being run, also vowed to carry out reforms and impose discipline within the DLP, recently created by the merger of three parties. "Taking this opportunity, we should realize the renovation of party atmosphere at any cost," Kim told a news conference.

Kim hinted that he had overcome the misunderstanding between himself and President No Tae-u, another member of the DLP troika, caused by a feud over party affairs. "I would like to return to the spirit of three-party merger, which was a grave decision to save the nation through ensuring political, social and economic stability," the former opposition leader said.

His remarks came two days after a meeting between No, Kim and Kim Chong-pil, the third co-leader, to bring an end to a conflict that erupted when Kim Yong-sam complained about a challenge to his power by first state minister Pak Chol-on, who was forced to resign from the cabinet last week.

Kim said No had promised to halt the "political maneuvering" aimed at him and his supporters, but No has reportedly denied such practices and called Kim's claims a "misunderstanding." "We discussed political maneuvering and agreed that it should be stopped," Kim said. Kim has not disclosed details of the so-called maneuvering, but his aides have said Kim's telephone may have been tapped by the Korean security agents and that his daily activities, and those of his followers and political fundraisers, have been under surveillance.

Nationwide Poll Conducted on DLP Split

SK1804014190 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 15 Apr 90 p 1

[Excerpt] It was shown that a majority of people think that the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] is doing less well than was expected at the time of the party merger and that disharmony within the DLP will continue for a long time even after the "Pak Chol-on controversy" is resolved.

On 13 April, CHOSON ILBO and Korea Gallup conducted a nationwide poll of 534 men and women over 20 years old. According to this telephone poll, from which people in Cheju Province were excluded, 55.8 percent said that the DLP "is doing less well" than was expected at the time of the party merger, while only 8.6 percent said that it "is doing better." Meanwhile, 11.7 percent said that it is doing as was expected, and 23.9 percent did not answer the question.

Regarding the internal splits in the DLP, 56.0 percent said that they "will continue for a long time," while 26.5 percent said that they are a "temporary phenomenon."

Regarding the question as to why the DLP is divided, 37.6 percent said, "because of a power struggle"; 25.6 percent said, "because parties that should not be merged were merged"; 4.7 percent said, "because of disharmony between Kim Yong-sam and Pak Chol-on"; and 2.4 percent said, "because of Pak Chol-on."

Regarding the question as to "who is mainly responsible for splits in the DLP?", 24.2 percent cited President No Tae-u; 18.1 percent said, "all of the people"; 17.4 percent cited Co-leader Kim Yong-sam; 12.3 percent, Lawmaker Pak Chol-on; and 0.4 percent, Co-leader Kim Chong-pil. Meanwhile, 27.6 percent said that they do not know.

Among the people who said that President No is responsible, 53.9 percent said that splits in the DLP were caused "because he lacks determination," and 18.3 percent said that he is mainly responsible "because he is the highest person in charge of state affairs." Among the people who said that Co-leader Kim Yong-sam is responsible, 30.0 percent said that splits were caused "because he has an ambition to expand his power base," and 18.6 percent said that he is responsible "because he, who was a member of an opposition party, joined the ruling party." Among the people who said that Lawmaker Pak Chol-on is responsible, 69.6 percent said that "he thrusts himself into everything."

Meanwhile, regarding the question as to "Who do you think is a desirable successor to President No for the DLP leadership?", 29.2 percent said, "no one"; 17.9 percent cited Co-leader Kim Yong-sam; 8.9 percent, Co-leader Kim Chong-pil; 2.7 percent, Lawmaker Pak Chol-on; and 1.0 percent, Lawmaker Yi Chong-chan. [passage omitted]

Kang Yong-hun at Ceremonies Marking Uprising
*SK1904024290 Seoul YONHAP in English 0155 GMT
19 Apr 90*

[Text] Seoul, April 19 (YONHAP)—Official ceremonies Thursday [19 April] marked the 30th anniversary of a student-powered South Korean revolution that toppled President Syngman Rhee in 1960.

Observances commemorating the April 19 uprising at Sejong Cultural Center in downtown Seoul were attended by Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun and a phalanx of high-ranking government officials and citizens.

"The April 19 uprising was part of a movement to protect free democracy by youths and students who rose against government oppression with a pure sense of justice," Kang said in a speech to the gathering.

"The precious sacrifice of those slain in the April uprising brought a victory for civil rights as well as a historic turning point for developing a free democracy," the prime minister said.

On the eve of the revolution Wednesday, about 15,000 students staged campus rallies and there were mini-marathons, photo exhibitions, lectures and video shows across the country, all to mark the event.

Police were placed on alert to prevent violent demonstrations.

About 3,000 students from Korea, Sungkyunkwan and Kwangun Universities gathered for a rally at the April 19 Cemetery in eastern Seoul and chanted, "down with the government of the Democratic Liberal Party." There were no arrests or violence.

The revolution was ignited when the government was found to have rigged an election to ensure the lifelong rule of Rhee, who was once respected as the father of Korean independence.

More than 200, mostly young, people were killed in the pro-democracy protests, which brought an end to Rhee's 12-year rule and set the base for the student activism that has played such an important role in South Korean politics.

Kim Yun-hwan Nominated State Political Minister
*SK1804033790 Seoul YONHAP in English 0300 GMT
18 Apr 90*

[Text] Seoul, April 18 (YONHAP)—Rep. Kim Yun-hwan, former floor leader of the now-defunct Democratic Justice Party (DJP), was nominated to be first state minister for political affairs Wednesday [18 Apr].

President No Tae-u named Kim to the position after accepting the resignation of Pak Chol-on, who offered to step down from the cabinet last week in connection with

his verbal attack on Kim Yong-sam, a co-leader of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party.

Kim, 58, a native of Sunsan, North Kyongsang Province, a three-term lawmaker, and a high school classmate of No, is a journalist-turned politician.

His major positions in the administration include vice culture-information minister, senior presidential secretary for political affairs, presidential secretary-general under former President Chon Tu-hwan and first state minister for political affairs in 1988.

Head Buddhist Says Chon Tu-hwan Should Return

*SK1804072290 Seoul YONHAP in English 0701 GMT
18 Apr 90*

[Text] Sokcho, South Korea, April 18 (OANA-YONHAP)—The head abbot at Sinheung Buddhist Temple on Mt. Sorak says that former President Chon Tu-hwan and his wife should be allowed to return to Seoul and begin life anew as common citizens.

"It's high time they went back to their old home now that the new political order has settled in," Hyeobop wrote in a recent temple newsletter article, titled "migratory birds are also going back to their nests."

Chon and his wife left for self-imposed exile at Paekdam Temple near the east coast mountain following a televised apology in November 1988 for wrongdoings while he was in power from 1980 to February 1988.

They also donated their house and other assets to the state.

The couple, who have repented through a 100-day prayer vigil and morning and evening prayer services, now deserve a new life in Seoul, the Buddhist priest said.

Since the irregularities of the former government are now history, the couple can go home as common citizens, he added.

Prosecutor Demands Imprisonment in 'Torture' Case

*SK1804085090 Seoul YONHAP in English 0812 GMT
18 Apr 90*

[Text] Seoul, April 18 (OANA-YONHAP)—A special prosecutor has demanded five to ten years' imprisonments for four policemen charged with torturing a political prisoner in 1985.

Special prosecutor Kim Chang-huk asked Wednesday the Seoul district court to mete out harsh punishment to the defendants, claiming that they had committed torture in "an unprecedentedly systematic and atrocious manner." A lawyer, Kim was earlier appointed to investigate the case after a higher court accepted an appeal for arbitration filed by the plaintiff.

Kim asked 10 years for Inspector Kim Su-hyon, 57; seven years for Superintendent Paek Nam-un, 55, and

Lieutenant Kim Yong-tu, 52; and five years for Lieutenant Choe Sang-nam, 43. The four officers were members of a counter-espionage team of the National Police Headquarters (NPH).

The officers were indicted in September 1985 for using water and electric shock torture on Kim Kun-tae, 44, then chairman of the National Federation of Youths Promoting Democracy, while interrogating him about his role in campus and labor unrest.

The final arguments of the prosecution came four years and eight months after the incident and 16 months after an appeals court accepted a demand for arbitration. The court is to pass sentences on May 23.

"When we define torture as seeking information or a confession from a person by inflicting systematic mental and spiritual pain and ultimately destroying his or her humanity, we can say these defendants gave a perfect example of torture," Kim said.

"Moreover, the defendants exhibited no sign of repentance. I demand they be sternly punished so that the people will see that justice is still alive."

"I strongly hope this case will serve for the nation to wash away the notoriety as an uncivilized land where torture is almost a household word," he said.

Defense counsel Kim Pyong-nam argued that the policemen should be acquitted since the only evidence against them was Kim Kun-tae's statement, which he said was lacking in credibility.

The attorney said Kim would have been unable to write a statement if he had been tortured for as long as he claimed.

Kim says Yi Kun-an, another police officer whom he accused of torturing him, had short hair but a photo from the time shows him with long hair, the attorney argued.

He said Kim's claim that he did not know the "theory of national democratic revolution" but was forced to memorize it during police interrogations was not credible as he perfectly memorized the basic theory of the National Alliance for Democratic Movements, an umbrella organization of dissident groups.

In his final statement, defendant Kim Su-hyon denied charges heaped on him, saying that he and his colleagues had felt no need to torture since police reports are not taken as evidence in court.

Kim Yong-tu said, "I treated him with special care, because he was a methodist like me. I don't know what to say now that he has brought torture charges against me. I once again feel how awful the communist conspiracy is."

Kim Kun-tae was first detained in Seoul's Sobu police station on charges of organizing student demonstrations

and later handed over to the NPH counter-espionage team, which he claims tortured him on 11 occasions.

Kim was indicted on charges of violating the National Security Law and sentenced to seven years in prison. The sentence was reduced to five years on appeal but an appeal to the supreme court was turned down. He was released on parole in June last year.

MBC Union Shows Solidarity With KBS Union

SK1804130090 Seoul YONHAP in English 1250 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Seoul, April 18 (YONHAP)—The labor union of Munhwa Broadcasting Corp. (MBC) decided Wednesday to boycott works in support of a sit-in protest of unionists at the Korea Broadcasting System (KBS), the other major broadcasting network in South Korea.

The decision was made during a meeting of union leaders of the Seoul-based MBC and its 19 affiliated provincial networks Wednesday afternoon.

The union leaders discussed ways to show their solidarity with the KBS unionists who have staged walkouts for seven days demanding the resignation of newly-appointed president So Ki-won.

MBC union leaders agreed to resume their meeting Thursday and discuss specific ways to boycott routine works and the timing of the collective action.

A statement adopted at the end of the meeting said, "The government's appointment of So as KBS president and So's resort to police force to quell the protest are an obvious sign of attempting to keep under the government control the broadcasting networks and to suppress mass media once again."

"The labor union of the MBC has resolved to begin the boycott to foil the government attempt," it added.

Meanwhile, a four-member subcommittee of the KBS board of directors contacted with labor union leaders Wednesday afternoon.

The subcommittee plans to work out concrete measures to settle current turmoil after they hold a meeting with senior officials of the state-run broadcasting network.

KBS has been in a state of practical paralysis since thousands of employees went on a sit-in protesting So's appointment. Unionists reject So as "a figure closely connected with former dictatorial governments." So refuses to yield to the call.

National Productivity 'Lags Far Behind' Others

SK1804093690 Seoul YONHAP in English 0843 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Seoul, April 18 (YONHAP)—South Korea lags far behind Taiwan and Singapore as well as the United

States and Japan in terms of national productivity, according to the Korea Productivity Center.

Korea's per employee gross domestic product was 11,404 U.S. dollars in 1987, 39 percent of the U.S. figure, 49 percent of Japan's, 42 percent of West Germany's, 86 percent of Taiwan's and 49 percent of Singapore's.

In the manufacturing industry alone, the figure was 15,881 dollars; but was still only 45 percent of the United States', 50 percent of Japan's, 60 percent of West Germany's, 68 percent of Singapore's and 93 percent of Taiwan's.

The Center said facility investment and technical education should be expanded and labor-management relations stabilized in order to increase national productivity.

Exports to Japan Fall Due To Weak Yen

*SK1904030290 Seoul YONHAP in English 0130 GMT
19 Apr 90*

[Text] Seoul, April 19 (YONHAP)—The value of South Korea's exports to Japan has been slashed by the rapid weakening of the Japanese yen, according to the Korea Traders Association.

Korea exported 426 million U.S. dollars worth of textiles to Japan in the first two months, 20 percent less than in the same period last year. Exports of textiles and textile products to Japan amounted to 3.86 billion dollars last year, or 28.7 percent of Korea's total textile exports.

Fiber exports during the two-month period dropped 53 percent to 22 million dollars, fabric exports fell 11.7 percent to 450 million dollars and textile products lost 17.4 percent to 358 million dollars.

Orders for shipment in the second half are off dramatically.

A general trading company official said orders for the Fall-Winter season are below half the level of last year and Japanese importers are demanding price cuts and seeking cheaper exporters in other countries, including China.

Exports of metal products and handicrafts, the other major export items to Japan, plummeted 23-24 percent.

Experts said they expect the final figures for exports to Japan this year to be less than 60 percent of last year's.

Cambodia

Sihanouk Reportedly Refuses To Meet Hun Sen

BK1904011790 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
19 Apr 90 p 4

[Text] Cambodian resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk has rejected an invitation by Japan to attend another round of peace talks with Phnom Penh Premier Hun Sen in Tokyo. But the prince, in an interview with Voice of America (VOA) correspondent David Dyar on Tuesday [17 April], said he was prepared to attend a meeting of the four warring factions. Prince Sihanouk also commented on the United Kingdom and the European Community's decision not to support the resistance seat in the upcoming United Nations General Assembly. He said the European Community was leading a movement to topple his resistance government.

During the interview held at Phum Sereipheap, a Cambodian village opposite Surin Province, the prince said Japanese Embassy Charge D'Affaires Tadashi Ikeda met him on Tuesday and handed him a letter from Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu. "I have no right to reveal the text of the letter, but I can say this: Japan, in conformity with the wish expressed to Prime Minister Kaifu by Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan, would like to host a new bilateral meeting between Mr Hun Sen and Sihanouk." Gen [General] Chatchai suggested to Mr Kaifu during his recent visit to Japan that Tokyo host a new round of peace talks among the four factions. The Japanese Government has said that it is "interested" in the proposal and considering the suggestion.

The prince said he replied to Prime Minister Kaifu's letter apologising for not being able to "accept a new round of talks with Hun Sen before several months." Prince Sihanouk said he could not attend a new round of talks with Mr Hun Sen because whatever decision or agreement was reached—like the joint communique signed in Bangkok in February—the Khmer Rouge would object. He said the Khmer Rouge have the right of veto in his resistance government, adding that he is just one of three leaders. Sihanoukist sources told the BANGKOK POST yesterday that the Japanese suggested that the Sihanouk-Hun Sen meeting be held in the first week of next month. Until last week the prince, who has said he is ready to meet Mr Hun Sen for further talks after their last meeting in February, was prepared to meet the Phnom Penh leader, the sources said. But recently, Mr Hun Sen has criticised the prince, accusing him of collaborating with the Khmer Rouge. The Phnom Penh leader has also attacked the prince's administration during his role of Cambodia. These attacks, the sources said, had upset the prince.

The prince said China and the Khmer Rouge would continue to stick to his original five-point peace plan and would not accept his new nine-point peace plan. Prince Sihanouk added however that he is prepared to attend a meeting of the four warring factions "even tomorrow in any town, in any country, Thailand or Japan or Paris."

He described such a meeting as being more "realistic" and "practical" than a meeting between himself and Mr Hun Sen. "If we want to work seriously on the matter of peace in the peace process, we need the presence of the Khmer Rouge. "Without them we can take all kinds of decisions, but it will be clear that those decisions would not be implemented by the Khmer Rouge," the prince said. The Khmer Rouge have agreed to participate in a meeting of the four warring factions, the prince said.

Commenting on the decision by Britain and the EC to end support for the resistance seat at the UN this year, the prince indicated that the "French, British and others" are more interested in capitalist gain to be made in Cambodia. "The French, British and others, they are interested in market places. Even Prime Minister Chatchai and his advisers, they say we must transform, turn the battlefields of Cambodia into market places and they are seeing the Khmer Rouge...refuse to let the international community turn the battlefields into market places. That is the reason Japan is eager to host Sihanouk-Hun Sen talks, because there is an urgent necessity to turn the battlefields into market places," the prince added.

KYODO on Japanese Diplomat Meeting Sihanouk

OW1804145190 Tokyo KYODO in English 1355 GMT
18 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO—A senior Japanese diplomat held talks on Wednesday with Cambodian resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk in the so-called liberated zone of Cambodia, a top Foreign Ministry official said on Thursday. The top official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that one of the main topics for discussion was a recent Thai proposal for Japan to play host to talks between Sihanouk and Hun Sen, leader of the Vietnam-installed government in Phnom Penh.

The official identified the Japanese diplomat who met with Sihanouk as Tadashi Ikeda, Japan's Bangkok-based ambassador ad interim to Cambodia. Japan does not officially recognize the Phnom Penh Government. The top official said Japan is not in a position to divulge the content of Ikeda's talks with Sihanouk, including the former Cambodian ruler's response to the proposed parley in Japan with Hun Sen. Another senior official revealed that Ikeda also entered the guerrilla-controlled zone of Cambodia earlier this year and met at that time with Sihanouk, leader of the second largest of the three factions battling the forces of Phnom Penh.

Ikeda's latest meeting with Sihanouk is part of a series of contacts the Japanese Government has had recently with the major parties to the Cambodian conflict. Most recently, a senior Vietnamese official, Dinh Nho Liem, first vice minister for foreign affairs, arrived in Tokyo on Wednesday for talks expected to center around the Cambodian peace process. In addition, Japan held political consultations with China on April 11-12, in which a Vietnamese proposal for three-way talks on Cambodia

among itself, China, and Thailand was a main agenda item. Thai Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan was in Japan from April 6-14, in which the premier proposed that Tokyo reopen aid to Vietnam and offer itself as a venue for talks between Sihanouk and Hun Sen. Furthermore, Japan coordinated its evolving Cambodia policy with that of the United States earlier this month during a visit by Richard Solomon, assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs.

In an unprecedented move last February, Japan dispatched a senior foreign minister official to Phnom Penh, a visit which coincided by that of an even more senior official to Hanoi. The missing piece of the picture is expected to be filled in early next month when Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu pays an official visit to Indonesia, which has played a leading role along with France in moving the sluggish Cambodian peace process forward.

VODK on Hun Sen Remarks on Military Situation

BK1904093290 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Station "article": "The Vietnamese Enemy and its Lackeys Can Never Deceive People Into Believing that Vietnam's Puppet Regime in Cambodia Would Not Collapse"]

[Text] Half-blind, one-eyed Hun Sen vociferously, arrogantly gave on 14 April a briefing on the military situation on Cambodia's battlefield with the aim of making people believe that the Vietnamese puppet regime would not tumble down and that it is becoming more stable than ever before, and so on. This is to induce the people to recognize the agonized regime. The one-eyed chum told the French newspaper LE FIGARO that the most difficult stage was over and that his forces were on the offensive.

One wonders how Hun Sen, who took asylum in Saigon [Ho Chi Minh City] in the wake of the attacks unleashed by the Cambodian national resistance forces and puppet Cambodian soldiers against Phnom Penh city and its vicinity in early January, could boast about this. What did he rely on in making the boastful statement? It is very obvious that he counted on over 30,000 Vietnamese troops shipped to Cambodia in late 1989 and early 1990. To date, the 30,000 Vietnamese troops have however not yet redressed Vietnam's setbacks in the Cambodian battlefield; instead, they have been continuously routed. For instance:

1. On the Route 10 battlefield, Vietnam deployed tens of thousands of its troops, including the 309th, 330th, 339th, and 4th Divisions, to launch for one month large-scale offensives in an attempt to retake Pailin. However, the troops were attacked and completely routed, and nearly 3,000 enemy soldiers were killed or wounded.
2. On the Kompong Thom battlefield, Vietnam gathered its forces from Phnom Penh city and Siem Reap and

Preah Vihear Provinces in a bid to recapture liberated territories in Stoung and Prasat Balang Districts from us. Our Cambodian national resistance forces routed and forced them to retreat in disarray.

On 12 April, our Cambodian national resistance forces continued to advance our offensives and liberated Stoung District as well as its township. We killed or wounded over 300 and captured more than 80 Vietnamese-puppet soldiers. On other battlefields such as Siso-phon and Thmar Puok, the Vietnamese enemy forces and puppet soldiers have been defeated one after another. Therefore, in spite of the reinforcement of 30,000 Vietnamese troops to Cambodia, the enemy forces were still not able to remedy their defeats on the Cambodian battlefield.

On the political front, the Cambodian people, administrators, and soldiers have been increasingly furious with the Vietnamese enemy and lackey puppets on account of corruption within the puppet regime, the devaluation of the Cambodian currency riel, massive price increases, and so on. Demonstrations and revolts against the Vietnamese enemy and puppets have been growing and are widespread throughout the country, such as in the Koh Kong provincial city, Kampot, Kompong Chhnang, Kompong Cham, and Kompong Thom Provinces, Udong District, others.

The events attest that the Cambodian people can no longer keep in check their hostility toward the Vietnamese enemy and that the military and political stance of Vietnam's regime in Cambodia is moving toward a collapse. The regime is in agony and cannot be revived. As such, the pack of lies propagated by the Vietnamese enemy and its puppets can absolutely deceive no one.

SRV's 'Rejection' of Peace Proposals Viewed

BK1904044390 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Station editorial: "What Is the Hanoi Authorities' Answer to the Peace Plan of the International Community?"]

[Text] At present, the international community—especially the countries in the region and the five member countries of the UN Security Council—have stepped up efforts to peacefully settle Vietnam's war of aggression in Cambodia. Cambodian President Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, the National Government of Cambodia, and the Cambodian nationalist resistance forces have shown their active cooperation with the efforts by making many concessions to promote an early settlement of the problem. Recently the samdech proposed an inter-Cambodian meeting in Bangkok on 15 April to join the international community's drive to seek a political breakthrough in the deadlock of the Cambodian settlement.

Vice President Khieu Samphan, on behalf of the party of Democratic Kampuchea, on 4 April 1990 issued a statement expressing full support for the 16-point communique of the five permanent UN Security Council members in the spirit of jointly putting a speedy end to the Vietnamese war of aggression against Cambodia through political means. This shows the genuine willingness of the Cambodian national resistance forces and the national government of Cambodia to peacefully and quickly resolve the Vietnamese war of aggression. With regard to the Vietnamese enemies, what is their answer to the peace efforts displayed by the international community and the major concessions consecutively made by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and the Cambodian national resistance forces?

1. The Vietnamese enemies still persist in their rejection of every proposal aimed at achieving a comprehensive political solution to the Cambodian problem in order to restore peace, independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity to Cambodia. They have objected to the 16-point resolution issued in Paris on 16 January 1990 by the five member countries of the UN Security Council. In particular they have opposed the UN role in verifying the withdrawal of their aggressor troops of all manners from Cambodia.

2. They opposed the participation of their puppets in the four-party Cambodian meeting because they feared the puppets would be pressed into accepting the UN Security Council resolution.

3. They have answered the international community's peace efforts and the concessions of the samdech and the Cambodian national resistance forces by: 1) shipping 30,000 fresh troops from Vietnam to Cambodia to add to more than 100,000 Vietnamese soldiers in the country; 2) intensifying forcible drafts throughout Cambodia; and 3) stepping up senseless offensives to recapture liberated territory from the Cambodian national resistance forces for the purpose of occupying Cambodia forever.

The Hanoi authorities have persisted over the past 10 years in frustrating the peace efforts of the world. They continue to use all manners of forces and treacherous gambits to achieve the goal of their invasion of Cambodia. This makes the international community see the need for joint continued pressure on the Vietnamese until they are forced to accept a comprehensive political settlement, which is earnestly demanded by the international community itself and the Cambodian people. Only by so doing can Cambodia recover peace, independence, sovereignty, neutrality, and nonalignment within its territorial integrity.

Stoung District Township 'Liberation' Reported

BK1904002390 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Here is a special report on the liberation of the Stoung District township in Kompong Thom Province:

On the morning of 11 April [as heard], our national resistance forces attacked and liberated the Stoung District township. After a two-hour battle, we completely liberated the township. We killed 75 and wounded 93 enemy soldiers and destroyed 15 vehicles, two tractors, two 105-mm artillery pieces, a 120-mm mortar, 2 DK-75 guns, hundreds of handguns, hundreds of metric tons of ammunition, three gasoline tanks, and many barracks, office buildings, and warehouses, as well as a great deal of war material. We seized over 600 assorted weapons and a significant quantity of assorted rounds of ammunition. People actively cooperated with the national resistance forces in the attack and liberation of the district township. The people in Stoung District were euphoric after the liberation of the district township and all the villages. This will allow them to move freely to earn their living, especially at the beginning of this year's farming season.

KPNLF To Reward Heng Samrin Defectors

BK1904012990 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 19 Apr 90 p 4

[Text] Aranyaprathet—The non-communist Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) forces have offered rewards to Heng Samrin defectors who can bring with them heavy weapons and war equipment. The offer was made in thousands of leaflets distributed inside Cambodia, opposite Ta Phraya District, and also along the border. The awards include US\$40,000 for an MI24 helicopter; \$25,000 for other types of helicopters; \$6,000 for a tank, an armoured car or an armoured personnel carrier; \$400-2,000 for an artillery piece or mortar; and \$1,000 for a Vietnamese soldier.

Editorial on Improving Army Living Conditions

BK1904074190 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 2300 GMT 18 Apr 90

[PRACHEACHON editorial: "Pay More Attention To Improving the Living, Moral, and Health Conditions of the Armed Forces"—date not given]

[Text] The work to improve the living, moral, and health conditions of the Armed Forces is one of the most essential tasks to ensure the firm stance and ideology of our Armed Forces at all times. In the current circumstances and particularly in this immediate period, the rear battlefield serves as the personal staff officer of the forefront by firmly adhering to the slogan: Everything is for the frontline battlefield. This means that for the frontline battlefield to be strong, it depends on the rear battlefield; for the frontline battlefield to be strong and willing to fight and win in every battle against the enemy, it depends on everything being quickly sent to the combatants. Our Armed Forces become happier when their moral conditions are bolstered, such as through reports by newspapers, magazines, and radio, or performances on the spot by professional or artistic groups. This is one of the factors to which particular attention should be paid.

The second national congress of party cadres and the ninth session of the party Central Committee clearly assessed 1989 as the most important year when the struggle between us and the enemy would be very difficult, complex, tense, and resolute. However, we could surmount all difficulties through our arduous struggle. This is clearly shown by the fact that our own forces have assumed responsibility for the nation by themselves for a period of five months, that is, from the total withdrawal of the Vietnamese volunteer troops from Cambodia to the beginning of the first quarter of 1990. On all battlefields, such as Svay Chek battlefield in Banteay Meanchey Province and Pailin battlefield in Battambang Province, our Armed Forces won total victories over the bandit gangs of Pol Pot, Sihanouk, and Son Sann.

Responding to the valiant spirit of heroism of our Armed Forces on all battlefields, our party, state, mass organizations, and people in all localities have constantly linked close to cadres and combatants by visiting them, awarding them in a timely manner, and sending many gifts to them. For example, in Banteay Meanchey, Battambang, and Siem Reap Provinces, by effectively applying our combined forces, means, and measures, we have stimulated the people to enthusiastically take part in sending food supplies to the forefront. Meanwhile, the experienced institutions of all sectors and at all levels—namely the General Logistics Department, General Staff Department, and General Political Department, and various ministries such as Industry, Trade, Finance, and Health—have timely transported materials, war means, food, medicine, fuel, newspapers, magazines, and artistic troupes including classical and modern musical groups to perform for units of the Armed Forces at the front. In addition to this, the attention paid by the party, state, mass organizations, and people in all localities has encouraged our Armed Forces, regular, regional, and militia forces, to become even more resolute in carrying out their national defense tasks. They fought and won in all battles.

Although it is true that in the past five months our forces have been firmly strengthening their mastery over the entire motherland, our struggle against the enemy to defend our national achievements and the vital interests of our people still continues tensely and complicatedly. The tripartite Pol Pot-Sihanouk-Son Sann alliance has insanely continued attempting to sabotage our national achievements in all aspects and seeking all kinds of maneuvers and schemes to revive the genocidal Pol Pot regime in Cambodia. To maintain our position of strength and victory, we must seek all measures and strive to improve a number of inactive points regarding the work to enhance the living, moral, and health conditions of the Armed Forces.

This 1990 dry-season campaign constitutes an ultimate offensive against the enemy. Therefore, to make our Armed Forces strong, the party and state institutions and mass organizations at all levels, from central to local, must strive to overcome any irresponsibility toward the standard of living of the Armed Forces. They must dare

to be responsible for and seek every way to settle problems on the spot and know how to persuade the masses to timely assist the battlefield. In the central region—such as in Phnom Penh capital, which is the economic sector—all sectors at all levels must most effectively carry out work to give encouragement, materially and morally, to the forefront. Successfully enhancing the moral and living conditions of the Armed Forces will certainly contribute to enabling them to fight and win permanent victory over the enemy.

Indonesia

Border Agreement With Papua New Guinea Renewed
BK1804102890 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST
in English 12 Apr 90 p 1

[Text] Jakarta (JP)—Indonesia and Papua New Guinea [PNG] yesterday renewed their basic agreement on border arrangements in a move to secure stable neighborly relations and develop reciprocal trust between the two countries.

The renewed agreement—the second renewal so far—was signed in Port Moresby by Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas and his Papua New Guinean counterpart Michael Somare.

On his return to Jakarta yesterday afternoon, Alatas hailed the agreement as marking a new era in bilateral relations, saying never before have the two countries trusted each other so much.

The agreement was first signed in 1979 and lasted until 1984 when the first renewal took place.

The second renewal yesterday would be effective for 10 years, an indication that both nations had begun to trust each other more, Alatas said.

The two countries, which share a common border of about 900 kilometers, used to file diplomatic protests to each others' capital over border problems. But Alatas said yesterday such exercises would not be repeated since the renewed agreement contained provisions for the setting up of a joint committee on security matters involving local military commanders from both sides. These officers would consult one another to settle possible border problems in the future, the minister said.

The committee will work together with the forum called Border Liaison Meeting (BLM) which is already operating. They will both work under the Joint Border Committee which is headed by Home Affairs Minister Rudini of Indonesia and Foreign Affairs Minister Michael Somare of PNG.

Alatas said he noticed that relations began to improve in 1986 when his predecessor Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja traveled to Port Moresby to sign the Treaty of Friendship, Mutual Respect and Cooperation.

Alatas also said that during his three-day visit he had "very cordial, friendly and frank talks" with PNG officials. This atmosphere had been non-existent in the past.

"Hopefully we are entering a new era in relations with PNG," Alatas remarked.

He said Foreign Minister Somare raised several proposals for the enhancement of bilateral economic relations, and PNG meant to set up cooperation with Indonesia in the mining and agricultural sectors as well as in education.

Alatas said he understood that PNG wanted the current technical cooperation between the two countries to be stepped up "especially in oil mining."

"There was also a suggestion of whether PNG could use the services of Indonesian telecommunication satellite Palapa between now and 1992 when PNG is due to have its own telecommunication satellite.

"They are eager to look into this possibility," Alatas noted, adding he would discuss this with cabinet colleagues.

Alatas said he was "very satisfied" with the visit, the first he has made there as Indonesian Foreign Minister.

Alatas said Indonesia now had good relations with all its neighbors and that his next moves would be to visit China, Korea and Japan.

But given the situation, and given the fact that Indonesia's relations with all parts of the globe—especially the centers of world power—were being stepped up over the last few years, Indonesia was not hoping that it would automatically be elected leader of the Non-Aligned Movement for those reasons, Alatas said.

He added he still did not know whether the new government in office in Managua would pursue outgoing President Daniel Ortega's policy of running for the chairmanship of the movement. Indonesia and Nicaragua have been vying for the post since the movement's summit in Harare in 1986.

Burma Interested in Leasing Palapa Satellite

BK1804103590 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 12 Apr 90 p 1

[Text] Jakarta (JP)—Myanmar, formerly Burma, wants to establish economic cooperation with Indonesia, particularly in telecommunication, transportation, and tourism, a visiting Myanmarese minister says.

Myanmar, for example, was interested in leasing the transponder of Indonesia's Palapa domestic telecommunication satellite, the country's minister for transportation, communications, work force, and people's welfare, Tin Tun, told reporters after meeting with President Suharto at Bina Graha here yesterday.

Tin Tun said after the political upheavals of two years ago, the country was looking for economic cooperation with other countries, including Indonesia.

Myanmar had various economic sectors with potential for cooperation with Indonesia, said Tin Tun, who was accompanied by Transport Minister Azwar Anas at the meeting with Suharto.

Tin Tun, who is also chief of Myanmar's Air Force, said his country had abundant natural resources, including minerals and gem stones.

Arriving here last Thursday, Tin Tun has held meetings with Indonesian officials, including Minister Azwar, State Minister for Research and Technology B.J. Habibie, Defense and Security Minister L.B. Murdani, Chief of the Armed Forces Try Sutrisno, and Chief of the Air Force Sibun.

Tin Tun has also visited Indonesia's aircraft and military equipment manufacturing plants in Bandung, West Java, the Air Force Academy in Yogyakarta, and the Borobudur Buddhist Temple in Magelang, Central Java.

Tin Tun said his country was not interested in joining the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) because it preferred to be more independent and to establish cooperation with any other countries.

ASEAN groups Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand.

Laos

Phoumi Vongvichit Delivers New Year Message

BK1804124190 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Traditional New Year greetings message from Phoumi Vongvichit, member of party Central Committee Political Bureau, acting president of the republic, and chairman of the Lao Front for National Construction; date not given—recorded]

[Text] Dear compatriots: Gone is the Year of the Snake. This New Year is the Year of the Horse. On this New Year day, on behalf of the government and Lao Front for National Construction [LFNC], I extend my wholehearted greetings to the Lao compatriots of all races, sexes, and ages in all parts of the country. The past year saw the most confusing situation because the capitalists, imperialists, and reactionaries exploited changes in the socialist countries by hiring elements to undermine internal unity and solidarity among the socialist countries to weaken and obstruct their development. The complex situation has effected adverse repercussions on the task of renovation in Laos. The capitalists, imperialists, and reactionaries are dreaming of using such a sinister scheme to dismantle the socialist system in the world and make our life more difficult so they will be able to colonize our country again as they used to do in

the past. However, it is obvious that our task of renovation implemented under the guidance of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party is correct and compatible with the internal conditions of Laos and has been supported by the multiethnic Lao people, who have been consolidating their mental and physical energies to defend national security, peace, and order and further develop our national economy.

In agriculture, the Lao people last year produced 1.4 million metric tons, a record figure for our country. We have reorganized our industries and become self-reliant in the business area. At the same time, we have broadened both internal and external markets. Land, water, and air communication networks have been expanded, thus gradually improving the living conditions of the Lao multiethnic people. The implementation of Resolution 51 of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, which emphasizes the development of the grass roots, has enabled us to train cadres to serve the masses and promote the popular democratic system within the framework of the party policy and state laws. In foreign affairs, we have strengthened relations and cooperation with friendly countries as well as solidarity with fraternal nations; we have received assistance from the international community for the development of our country, thus further enhancing the prestige of our party and state in the international arena.

Considering what I have mentioned here, we now have a good opportunity to build and mold cadres in all sectors so they can contribute to strengthening our party; improve and renovate our organizational apparatuses; modify our work style in line with the principle of democratic centralism; enhance internal unity among organizations in accordance with the lines and policies of the party and state; and through the LFNC, encourage the people to play their role as the master of themselves, country, and society. We should be proud of the success of the policy of renovation as prescribed by the fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, and ninth resolutions of our party Central Committee. This policy can effectively answer the aspiration of the multiethnic people in the entire country in a timely manner.

We are entering the Year of the Horse as a chaotic situation prevails in many parts of the world. The capitalists, imperialists, and reactionaries have not yet discarded their schemes to destroy socialism, swallow up Laos, and enslave our ethical and peace-loving people. They will not hesitate to use any atrocious tricks to carry out their sinister schemes. They hire greedy elements to effect changes in our country through peaceful means and make preparations for a rebellion to topple our new regime. As they always clamor in their propaganda campaigns, they say that our party Central Committee, government, and LFNC are not capable of serving the desire of the Lao people. For this reason, we must be careful, always enhance our sense of vigilance, be sensitive to new developments, disregard the enemy propaganda, and cling tightly to final goal of our revolution for socialism.

No matter how difficult and complicated things might be, we must believe that the fraternal socialist countries will be able to overcome their shortcomings, find the right way to revive their revolutionary traditions, and extricate themselves from the crises in order to place themselves in the front line of the revolutionary movement. We firmly believe that the people in those countries will cooperate with their legitimate leading organizations in bringing their nations onto the path of socialism. The capitalists, imperialists, and reactionaries can never reverse the history of socialism of the present era, for its socioeconomic foundation has already been fortified.

As for Laos, we are encountering numerous difficulties resulting from the complex world situation. However, we are delighted to note that our policy of renovation is compatible with the epochal trend. Our nation, once enslaved by other countries for many decades, has liberated itself for more than 10 years now. Therefore, we, the Lao people, must treasure our independence and right to mastership. Our people want to live a happy life in our independent and sovereign country. Our country is rich in natural resources that can be exploited to bring about a prosperous life to everyone. Moreover, we as citizens of an independent country can strive to obtain foreign assistance for development of our country so our people continue to improve their living conditions.

On the occasion of the Lao traditional New Year festival, I sincerely urge my multiethnic compatriots to keep themselves well aware of the enemies' schemes, and closely unite to prevent, detect, and counter their subversive activities in a timely manner. I call on my compatriots to concentrate their efforts on the improvement of the tasks of national defense and maintenance of public security in all localities; pay attention to the well-being of regional forces and cooperation with the people in nearby villages to fight the enemies; closely coordinate economic undertakings with the tasks of national defense and maintenance of public security; strengthen internal unity; and be ready to foil every scheme to effect changes thorough peaceful means and subversive tricks of the enemies in order to safeguard the fruits of the revolution, which we harvested with great difficulties and hardships during the past decades.

I call on my compatriots to make all-out efforts to boost production by turning agriculture and forestry to serve production of commodities; solve the problems of circulation and distribution of goods; thoroughly expand services; shift to the business autonomy; and broaden economic relations with foreign countries. I call on my compatriots to cooperate with the government to promote education from the central level down to the grass roots in the rural and mountainous areas and pay attention to the living conditions of teachers who are educating our children. I call on my compatriots to cooperate with the government to expand public health services from the center down to the village level and be generous to doctors and medical cadres who serve the

people and make sure that the doctors and cadres can live and carry out their duties comfortably.

I call on my compatriots to join in reviving and safeguarding our national culture and opposing and trying to eliminate the obsolete and extravagant traditions and practices and every form of decadent culture that the enemies use to intoxicate the Lao people and youths and seduce them to follow the indecent way of life and serve their aggression schemes against Laos. Dancing, singing, and every form of entertainment must suit the fine culture of our Lao nation in order to gain respect from other countries. I call on my compatriots to appreciate the potentials of Buddhism as a religion that can generate monks to carry out the socialist revolution in Laos in the long run. Therefore, everyone who is imbued with the party policies and the LFNC objectives is requested to jointly safeguard and take good care of all temples and places for worship, observe Buddhist traditions, and follow the teachings of the Lord Buddha. Buddhist monks must understand and appreciate the party's resolutions and correctly apply them in their sermons. Buddhist monks should enhance internal unity among themselves first before uniting with the people of other faiths and those who do not profess any faith.

Finally, I wish to extend my sincere greetings and affection to my multiethnic compatriots. I wish you good health and success in the tasks I have mentioned today so we can make this New Year a year of new concepts, better changes, new brilliant victories, prosperity, and happiness for all. Thank you.

Saman Vi-gnaket Visits Luang Namtha Province

*BK1904040190 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
1200 GMT 18 Apr 90*

[Text] Last week, Saman Vi-gnaket, Political Bureau member of the party Central Committee and minister of education and sports, paid a visit to Luang Namtha Province. During the visit, in addition to hearing reports on various matters presented by the provincial party and administrative committees, Saman Vi-gnaket also addressed a gathering of more than 500 cadres, party members, and workers in the province. In his address, Saman Vi-gnaket hailed the armed forces and people in the province for heroically defending and building their own province in over 10 years, thereby gradually changing its face for the better. He also pointed out that the world situation is now changing in a confusing manner and noted certain designs employed by the imperialists and reactionary forces as well as bad elements in their attempts to undermine our revolution. Regarding the confusing situation in the world, he called on cadres, party members, combatants, workers, and people in Luang Namtha Province to strengthen their unity and to heighten a sense of vigilance to stand ready to smash the enemy's designs and to proceed together to energetically build Luang Namtha into a strong and wealthy province.

Philippines

Harold Magleo Case Raised to 'Official Level'

*HK1904045590 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 19 Apr 90 p 6*

[Text] The Philippines has officially asked the United States for information on Harold Magleo, an American reported to have offered arms and ammunition for \$20,000 to rebel soldiers shortly before the coup attempt last December.

Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus has sent a note verbatim to the U.S. embassy containing the request, raising the issue to an official level.

Alejandro Galido, a retired general claiming to have sat in at some of the plotters' meetings as a government agent, identified Magleo as someone who had presented himself as a U.S. Air Force colonel and offered the arms deal.

Replying to questions raised in the press, the U.S. embassy had said earlier that Magleo was a civilian quality-control manager at an air base in California.

It had also said that the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the United States had made "direct contact" with Magleo but that it had not revealed whatever might have resulted from this.

Mitra Views Effects of Coalition Breakup

*HK1904050990 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY
in English 19 Apr 90 p 3*

[By reporter Jose H. Macaspac III]

[Text] House Speaker Ramon Mitra Jr. said yesterday that the impending break-up of the fragile coalition between the Lapiang Demokratikong Pilipino [LDP—Struggle of Philippine Democrats] and the Liberal Party [LP] will not affect the Aquino government's legislative agenda.

Mitra met with Senate Majority Leader Teofisto Guingona Jr., an LP official, at the Finance Building and the two men agreed to calendar the coalition travails in a caucus to be called before the both Houses of Congress resumes session on May 7.

Mitra however told reporters that the LDP is confident that it can push the legislation needed to ensure the success of the numerous development projects of the Aquino government.

The LDP enjoys a majority of the House of Representatives while the LP controls the Senate.

But Mitra said that the coalition in the House is intact, claiming that despite pronouncements by Senate and LP President Jovito Salonga that the LP had left the coalition, the LP congressmen are still willing to work hand in hand with the LDP colleagues. He also said that even if

the coalition break-up pushes through, the two parties can work together in support of the Aquino government.

For his part, Guingona said his party will wait for the outcome of the LP-LDP caucus.

The LP has already informed Salonga of the proposed caucus. Salonga is in the U.S. to testify in the Imelda Marcos racketeering charges trial in New York.

Mitra also insisted that President Aquino should now accept the LDP's offer for her to head it. "The President cannot go on without any political party if she wants he continued support of Congress," Mitra said.

Mitra disclosed that the one thing that is holding back the President from accepting the LDP offer was the threat that cause-oriented groups and non-political organizations will withdraw their support for her if she decides to head a political party.

Mitra also told Senate reporters that many House members are not in favor of imposing higher taxes on liquor and cigarettes, claiming that it would be the low-income bracket which will suffer.

Further on Aquino Seeking Extension of Powers

Mitra Comments on Extension

HK1904023390 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Speaker Ramon Mitra Jr. said the threat from extra-constitutional forces have eased considerably, indicating that the House of Representatives is not disposed to extending President Aquino's emergency powers. Mitra said legislative and executive priorities should turn to restoring normality the government processes as quickly as we can. The House leader said that he and Senate President Jovito Salonga are prepared for a meeting with President Aquino on whether to prolong her extraordinary powers under Republic Act 6826 which expires June 8. Congress ratified the declaration of a state of national emergency last December 20 after this was asked by President Aquino due to the severe damage inflicted on national economy and security by the last December 1 to 7 coup attempt.

Ramos Cites Instability 'Factors'

HK1804103790 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 0900 GMT 18 Apr 90

[By Jonathan Cristobal—italicized portions spoken in English]

[Text] The country's security remains in a state of emergency as normalcy has not returned in various parts of the country. This was stressed by Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos at a Camp Aguinaldo news conference today. At the same time, he asserted that he favors the extension of the president's emergency powers. It will be recalled that the chief executive was granted emergency

powers to deal with existing political, economic, and security instability in the country in the wake of the December 1989 coup. However, the president's emergency powers expire in June.

According to Ramos, the country remains unstable because of the armed threat posed by the RAM-SFP [Reform the Armed Forces Movement—Soldiers of the Filipino People] alliance and by the existence of YOU [Young Officers Union]. Moreover, Ramos cited rising commodity prices, loose firearms and explosives in the possession of coup plotters, and the energy crisis as other factors contributing to the instability. He explained that all these factors are exploited by enemies of the government to achieve their own ends.

However, Ramos continued to believe that the overall security situation is improving and is moving toward stability.

[Begin recording] [Ramos] *There are still armed threats. There are still the conditions of instability created by, for instance, if you will look at the National Emergency Memorandum Orders issued by the president, there is still an escalation of prices. There were memos issued to bring that down or under control. There is still a need for the recovery of firearms, explosives, ammunition, and other destructive materials from the hands of unauthorized persons. Memo Number 6 was issued for that purpose, etc., etc.*

[Reporter] *Is it largely because of the security situation?*

[Ramos] *Plus some of the conditions that I mentioned: Prices; the power shortage, which has a very great multiplier effect; the drought situation also has a very strong multiplier effect on services, prices, productivity, etc., which are being exploited by some antigovernment forces. The situation is not normal, in other words.*

[Reporter] *Is it your assessment that it will get better or things will get worse?*

[Ramos] *I think it is bound to get better because that has really been the trend since January 1990. But we are not yet out of the crisis period. [end recording]*

At the same time, Ramos assured that the military will check any rightist rebel attempt to undermine the country's democratic process. He guaranteed that President Aquino will stay in office until the end of her term, adding that the Armed Forces of the Philippines will not tolerate the emergence of any military-civilian junta headed by RAM-SFP.

Editorial Urges No Extension

HK1904044590 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 19 Apr 90 p 4

[Editorial: "No Need To Extend Emergency Powers"]

[Text] President Aquino has expressed her intention to ask Congress for an extension of the grant to her of emergency powers which the legislature approved last December.

It will be recalled that even as the RAM-SFP [Reform the Armed Forces Movement-Soldiers of the Filipino People] troops were still holed up in Makati during last year's coup attempt, Ms. Aquino placed the entire country under a state of emergency to allow the government, she said, to cope with the crisis spawned by the putsch. Under the Constitution, the state is empowered to take over public utilities or businesses affected with public interest when a state of emergency is declared.

Later, Ms. Aquino convinced Congress to pass a law granting her expanded emergency powers for six months. Specifically, the National Emergency Act allowed Ms. Aquino to: take over privately-owned public utilities or businesses related to public interest; protect the public from such practices as hoarding, profiteering, price speculation, and price manipulation; purchase goods in bulk for distribution in emergencies; ensure the availability of credit; enforce staggered work hours; decrease expenditures of government through suspension or abandonment of operations; and recover and account for firearms and explosives belonging to the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] in the possession of unauthorized persons.

Most legislators thought it was reasonable then to grant the President broader powers since the country was undoubtedly in the midst of a grave crisis. But so strong was their fear of a recurrence of the repression under the Marcos regime, that they sought to cut these powers to the bare minimum, rejecting, so some of them said, stronger measures submitted by the military which would have placed the nation under virtual martial law.

Now that Ms. Aquino has sent feelers for a possible extension of the extra powers granted her, the senators and congressmen have turned leery, and not because they fear such powers will bring the country closer to repressive rule. Rather they do not see any need for it, since the President, they say, "doesn't know how to use (emergency powers) anyway."

If asked to list what actions she has taken under the National Emergency Act, Ms. Aquino would almost certainly come up with a list embarrassing in its brevity and timidity—setting price ceilings on rice, petroleum products and six other essential goods; allowing the importation of rice to augment local supply; and placing restrictions on the use of private aircraft and private air strips. For these Ms. Aquino wants her powers extended?

It seems to us that there are enough laws allowing government agencies to go after economic saboteurs and coup plotters. The President won't need emergency powers to keep down rice prices, for instance, if the trade department would only crack down on the so-called rice cartel.

More than new laws, or broadened powers, what the government needs to arrest the current state of drift and disorder is the will to enforce existing laws, the resolve to pursue the national good, and most of all, the leadership to overcome its enemies within and without.

We must join the legislators in their skepticism about the need for extending the emergency act beyond June. President Aquino was given the chance (and the power) last December to make a difference. We're sorry to say that she blew it.

Units Formed To Fight Rightist, Leftist Threats

HK1904023590 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Capcom [Capital Region Command] Chief Brigadier General Marino Filart disclosed the creation of special units to deal with ultra-rightists or leftists threats. Speaking to newsmen in Manila, Filart said the specialized units has been tasked among others to hunt down members of NPA [New People's Army] hit squads and rightist terrorists. At the same time Filart dismissed an impossibility of a coup at this time despite the alliance of RAM [Reform the Armed Forces Movement] and Marcos loyalists.

CPP-NDF Deny Charges of European Counterfeiting

HK1904094390 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 0900 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] From the Netherlands, the Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP] and the National Democratic Front [NDF] jointly denied reports that they were involved in counterfeiting activities in Europe. Earlier, the military revealed that the CPP-NDF were engaged in currency counterfeiting as a means to raise funds for the purchase of arms to overthrow the Philippine Government.

In his statement, Jose Maria Sison maintained that he is not involved in any criminal activities in Europe and elsewhere.

Meanwhile, NDF spokesman Luis Jalandoni decried the reports as intended by the Philippines and the United States to tarnish the credibility and leadership of the CPP and the NDF in Europe.

Quezon Media Warned Against NPA Manipulation

HK1904073190 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 0700 GMT 19 Apr 90

[By Rolly Sanchez of DWDI-Lucena City]

[Text] Colonel Reynaldo Wycoco, Quezon provincial commander, revealed that the NPA [New People's Army] operating in the region are trying to use the local media, especially broadcasters based in Lucena City and one particular radio station in Infanta, Quezon. He

claimed that this plan was contained in a letter confiscated from an NPA rebel bearing the signature of a top NPA leader.

Colonel Wycoco challenged the media, especially print and broadcast media based in Quezon Province, not to let themselves be used as a propaganda tool of the insurgents so as not to confuse the people who usually believe what they read and hear.

Colonel Wycoco also said that the NPA have sensed that they are losing the propaganda war against the military and the current administration. He further said that the rebels were losing more supporters to the government.

The provincial commander added that if local media could spread the truth that the NPA are slowly losing the war, the region might attain genuine peace and order.

Captive Officer Freed; 8 Killed in Iloilo Ambush

*HK1704145790 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company
DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 17 Apr 90*

[Text] The constabulary officer who was abducted by armed NPA [New People's Army] rebels last February was released this morning. Philippine Constabulary Captain Alfredo Reyes of the Quezon Constabulary Highway Patrol Group was found in good condition after he was set free by the NPA's Apolinario Mendoza Brigade headed by Comrade Lando in barangay Gumaca at 0930 this morning.

Reports reaching Camp Aguinaldo quoted Bishop Marquez of Gumaca, who received Reyes from his captors, as saying that Reyes was in good health although he appeared very tired. Southern Luzon Command chief Brigadier General Federico Ruiz added that Captain Reyes was immediately turned over to the Southern Luzon Command for a medical checkup.

Ruiz said military operations were temporarily suspended in four towns in Quezon in accordance with NPA demands for the release of Captain Reyes. Military units halted operations in the towns of Antimonan, Gumaca, Pitogo, and Gunisan. However, Ruiz refused to comment when asked if the NPA's demand of a 1-million-peso ransom was paid to the abductors. Reyes was taken hostage by armed rebels who were manning a checkpoint in the town of Gumaca on 25 February.

In another development, a police station commander and seven others were killed in an ambush carried out by NPA rebels in barangay Barasan, Igaras, Iloilo at around 1000 this morning. Reports said that a combined team of police and Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit [CAFGU] personnel headed by Sergeant Juanito Espina, station commander of the Igaras Integrated National Police, was on its way to another clash site when it was ambushed by the NPA. Espina and seven others were killed in the encounter.

Aside from Espina, the other slain victims were: Patrolmen Jose Gabine, Lamberto Inano, and Kirato [as

heard], and Rafael Estolino, a CAFGU member. Three more victims remain unidentified.

Reports said that the mini-cruiser carrying Sergeant Espina's group hit a land mine in barangay Barasan. The group was then fired on from both sides by the rebels.

Espina's group was supposed to go to barangay Labhan where an encounter was reportedly taking place between government and rebel troops. Three NPA rebels and one CAFGU member were wounded in the clash.

Meanwhile, an alleged member of the National Democratic Front called up radio station DYDQ-Radio Budiong in Iloilo and admitted responsibility for the ambush. According to the caller, who introduced himself simply as Comrade Jess, the ambushers belonged to the main NPA regional guerilla unit.

Officer Probing Bibit's Escape Survives Ambush

*HK1704054890 Manila MANILA BULLETIN
in English 17 Apr 90 p 17*

[By Victor Vega]

[Text] A PC [Philippine Constabulary] officer assigned to investigate the daring escape of Col. Virgilio Bibit last week survived yesterday an ambush believed staged by renegade soldiers on President Quirino Ave. in Malate, Manila.

Lt. Victor Batarra, 35, assigned to the PC Inspectorate in Camp Crame, Quezon City, escaped unhurt after five heavily armed men in combat fatigue uniforms shot up his car with automatic weapons.

Batarra was driving his blue Opel car on his way to Camp Bicutan in Tagig from his house in Sampaloc when a red Toyota Tamaraw jeep with plate No. PJE 912 tried to block his path and its passengers sprayed his Opel with bullets.

Batarra managed to speed away. The ambushers, in turn, sped toward Vito Cruz and disappeared.

Batarra said he has been receiving death threats from unidentified callers since he was assigned to handle the case of Bibit's escape.

Wanted December Coup Participant Surrenders

*HK1804102390 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company
DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 18 Apr 90*

[Excerpt] An official of the South Harbor's intelligence service, who allegedly took part in the occupation of the harbor at the height of the December coup, has surrendered to the National Bureau of Investigations [NBI]. He is 57-year-old Bienvenido Sepe, a supervising intelligence officer of the Customs Bureau. Sepe turned himself in following an extensive search by the authorities.

A warrant of arrest for Sepe was earlier issued by the Quezon City Regional Trial Court for charges of rebellion and attempted murder after it was learned that Sepe had joined Billy Bibit in looting and intimidating customs employees during the 1 December 1989 coup. Sepe was accompanied by his lawyer, Roman Villanueva, when he surrendered to the NBI at the office of Lieutenant Colonel Robert Barbers, chief of the Western Police District's NBI Task Force.

According to Sepe's lawyer, Sepe was recuperating from heart disease in his house in Sikat Street, Tondo, Manila all this time. His weak health prevented him from coming forward earlier.

Bienvenido Sepe was reportedly forced to join Bibit to avoid violence at the customs office at South Harbor. [passage omitted]

MNLF Said Preparing for Renewed Fighting

*HK1804075590 Manila MANILA BULLETIN
in English 18 Apr 90 p 8*

[By Wilma N. Yamzon]

[Text] Military authorities said yesterday that Muslim secessionist leader Nur Misuari is reorganizing the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) fighting units in Mindanao in preparation for renewed hostilities in the area.

Documents captured by the military in the South revealed that Misuari is again girding for "hostile acts" in protest of the government's Muslim Autonomy Act.

The Western Command reported that the Muslim leader is also starting a reshuffle of his commanders in key posts in the MNLF. It said a new line up of officers to compose the Palawan Revolutionary Command (PRC) is under way, adding that other MNLF commands elsewhere in the country is affected by the reshuffle.

Misuari had earlier threatened to wage another war in Mindanao by calling on his commanders to mount terrorism activities in the South. the acts included attacks on government and military installations.

Misuari was also reported to have met with Mindanao-based ultra-rightist leader dismissed Lt. col. Alexander Noble and destabilize the government. [sentence as published]

In the reorganization Khalid Mohammad was reported appointed as officer-in-charge of the PRC, while Khadir Bandi assumed the next higher post in the command.

Other Muslim leaders appointed in the Palawan MNLF command were identified by the military as Gamar Ahajan, senior adviser to the OIC [Islamic Conference Organization]; Nuhma Panding, chairman for the committee on finance; Khadir Usop, OIC for Southern States Revolutionary Committee (SSRC); Clay Presnillo, alias "Clay Abdulla," SSRC district commander.

Three regular members—Esral Sabnai, Benjie Sabdani, and Mura Iantaping—were promoted to higher ranks in the PRC.

Military authorities said a special group called "Task Force Collection of Revolutionary Taxes" was also formed by Misuari to implement a good taxation program in Palawan and increase financial resources of the MNLF.

Aquino, NEDA Approve P11.8-Billion Program

*HK1904051390 Manila MANILA BULLETIN
in English 19 Apr 90 pp 1, 20*

[By Fred M. Lobo]

[Text] President Aquino and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) board approved yesterday the allocation of P [Pesos] 11.8 billion for the improvement of the country's educational system and for relending to industries.

The P11.8-billion program was approved by the President and the NEDA board in a meeting yesterday at Malacanang.

Approved for implementation were the programs embodied in the P11.4-billion Second Elementary Education Sector Loan to be financed by the World Bank and the Japanese Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund, and the P422.45 million Industry Sector Loan from the German government.

In other developments:

1. The government, through Trade and Industry Secretary Jose Concepcion Jr., announced the arrival of some one million tons of cement to meet construction needs this summer.
2. Mrs. Aquino called on the private sector to play the role of prime mover of economic growth through the setting up and dispersal of businesses and industries.

The President said that the improvement of the country's educational system will be enhanced through the elementary education loan program which will provide budgetary support to the projects of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS) between 1990 and 1992.

The program will fund the construction, replacement, and rehabilitation of elementary school buildings, production of school desks, textbooks and teachers' manuals and the procurement of school equipment and instructional aids.

The program will also support the annual retraining of teachers and the production of teaching modules, literary programs for out-of-school youths, and pilot programs for the prevention of school drop-outs.

Under the Industry Sector Loan Program, loans will be granted to industries for the rehabilitation and modernization of plant facilities and equipment, installation of

energy-saving devices, and the expansion of productive capacities of labor-intensive and export-oriented manufacturing firms.

The program will come in the form of loan assistance bearing interest of only 2 percent interest with 30-year repayment period.

Acting NEDA Director General Cayetano Paderanga noted that this sector loan was committed by the German government during President Aquino's visit to Germany in 1989.

Concepcion said at Malacanang that some one million tons of cement are due to arrive shortly from China and other countries. He said that the importation will meet the increasing demand for cement this summer season.

Finance Secretary Warns of Rising Budget Deficit

HK1804060190 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY
GLOBE in English 18 Apr 90 pp 1, 9

[By staff writer Ray S. Enano]

[Text] The 1990 budget deficit is rising to an alarming high of P [pesos] 24 billion from the original estimate of P17 billion, Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao warned on Monday.

In a report submitted to the Joint Executive-Legislative Foreign Debt Council, Estanislao attributed the increase in the budget deficit to alleged inaction by legislature on revenue measures and costly subsidies for domestic petroleum prices.

The report dwelt on the preliminary review meetings with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on the country's economic performance and the government's fiscal policies.

Estanislao said the upswing of deficit spending during the first three months of 1990 would produce "very undesirable" results unless the government acted immediately on the new tax measures.

Malacanang has been under pressure from the IMF to increase revenues to finance infrastructure programs and pay back foreign loans. It has asked Congress to pass several urgent bills imposing new taxes. But Speaker Ramon Mitra Jr. and other leaders of the ruling Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) [Struggle of Philippine Democrats] have said that the executive branch must first improve its collection efforts to increase revenues before it may expect action on the tax bills.

After a fruitless meeting with Congress leaders, President Aquino asked Estanislao to closely coordinate with the House of Representatives on the progress of his collection improvement program.

"Without the cooperation and support of Congress, it is with extreme difficulty, bordering on impossibility, to

meet those (IMF) targets, considering all constraints of time, discretionary flexibility, etcetera," Estanislao said in his report.

Estanislao said the IMF insists that the government stick to its original deficit ratio, which was agreed upon between the international financial institution and the Philippine debt negotiators last October. He said the IMF wants the consolidated public sector deficit to be contained at 3 percent of the gross national product in 1990 and 2.5 percent in 1991.

The public sector borrowing requirement level for 1990 is rising to P43.4 billion, compared to the original program of P28.4 billion, while the consolidated public sector deficit is heading toward P55.2 billion from the programmed P33.4 billion. "The figures are not firm, but are indicative of slightly more than P20 billion of slippage in the wrong direction," Estanislao said.

Estanislao gave the following reasons for the rising deficit:

- Failure of Congress to consider excise taxes. The negotiators had promised that the taxes would be in place by January 1990 and that P2.9 billion would be collected during the first quarter of the year.
- Higher than expected cost of salary standardization for government employees from P5 billion to P7 billion.
- Additional deficit in the Oil Price Stabilization Fund to reach P8 billion from the original estimate of P2 billion.
- Higher interest payments on domestic debt, which would reach P8 billion more than the original assumption due to higher level of borrowing and the resulting higher interest rates.

Estanislao warned of higher inflation and interest rates, increased imports and current account deficits, greater pressures on the peso exchange rate and lower economic growth if the government does not take steps to correct the situation.

'Indicator' Notes Flood Control Fund Allocation

HK1004042090 Manila BUSINESS STAR
in English 10 Apr 90 p 2

["Indicator" column by Conrado M. Diaz: "P1.748B for River Flood Control Works Allocated"]

[Text] With the present drought showing no signs of abating, the government has signified its intent on conducting more flood control and drainage work in the country's principal river basins this year.

That intent is reflected in the P [pesos] 1.748 billion which the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), as per its 1990 Public Infrastructure Program (PIP), has earmarked for investment this year in flood control and drainage and other related projects aimed at aiding farm production.

The projects will be in river basins located both in the provinces and Metro Manila.

The amount is 26% more than the department's allocation of P1.391 billion in 1989. It is divided into two components: P365 million, which are the funds for foreign-assisted flood control and drainage works and p1.383 billion which represents the locally-funded projects.

The foreign-assisted projects include the flood control component of the Naga-Calabanga and Rinconada Area Project in the Bicol River Basin. Release of the earmarked funds is expected to substantially complete this project even as it facilitates the following: detailed engineering works for the Cagayan River Basin Project; setting up of telemetering and flood warning system for the Pasig-Marikina-Laguna Lake complex; rehabilitation of the Manila pumping stations; the Lower Agusan Flood Control Project; and, the Small Water Impounding Management (SWIM) Project.

The above projects are all partially funded by Japan's Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF), excluding the Bicol River Basin Project, which is partly financed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Another ADB-assisted flood control project is the P19.3 million reconstruction of flooding and drainage infrastructure facilities damaged by typhoon "Sisang" in Regions IV, V and VII in 1989.

Locally-financed projects, meanwhile, involve mainly river control works in major basins like those of the Agno, Cagayan, Pampanga, Balog-Balog, Bicol, Panay, Libuganon (Davao del Norte) and lower Agusan rivers. Work in these basins will include the construction of dikes, river improvement and dredging, with emphasis on the filling of gaps in the overall flood control schemes and the rehabilitation and strengthening of existing structures.

A total of 1,157 such projects have been lined up for implementation throughout the country, the DPWH said. It added that attention is also being given the construction of 68 multi-purpose SWIM projects and 178 mini-dams.

In Metro Manila, meanwhile, more seawalls will be built in the northern coastal communities to protect them from the strong wave action of the Manila Bay. The seawalls are part of the 447 such structures the DPWH intends to build in coastal communities throughout the country this year.

FLOOD CONTROL AND DRAINAGE

PHYSICAL TARGETS, BY REGION & CATEGORY

Region	No. of Projects	Category	Category
I	271	River Control/ Drainage	

CAR @	61	FA (Foreign-Assisted)	19
II	50		
III	178	LF (Locally Funded)	1,157
NCR #	27		
IV-A	90	Impounding/ Sabo Dams	
IV-B	79	FA	15
V	212		
VI	104	LF	53
VII	110		
VIII	172	Mini-Dams	
IX	109	LF	178
X	176		
XI	137	Seawalls	
XII	64	LF	447
Nationwide	29		
TOTAL	1,869	TOTAL	1,869

CAR @ [Cordillera Administrative Region]

NCR # [National Capital Region]

Thailand

Growing Lack of Cambodia UN Seat Support Noted

BK1804135590 Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai
18 Apr 90 p 9

[Soi Suanphlu column by M.R. Khukrit Pramot]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Concerning the Cambodian situation, public opinion tends to support the Cambodian resistance government as a legitimate body for administrative control of Cambodia while rejecting the Heng Samrin government as a puppet government installed by Vietnam and protected by the Vietnamese soldiers.

Last September, the Vietnamese Government announced that it had pulled out all its troops from Cambodia. Yet, some parties, including Prince Sihanouk, are still suspicious. They believe that Vietnam did not pull out all its troops but left some of its soldiers in Cambodia disguised as civilians. Nevertheless, the Vietnamese withdrawal did effect some changes to the Cambodian problem. Many countries began to think that Vietnam no longer had influence or control over the Heng Samrin government because Vietnam no longer had troops in Cambodia.

But the world has remained the same in its consensus, that is, no recognition for the Heng Samrin government while retaining the UN seat for the Cambodian resistance government. That means an indirect recognition for the Khmer Rouge which is a component in the resistance coalition. The rationale, or rather the irrationale, behind the recognition of the Khmer Rouge, once

condemned for its genocide, has surfaced and became an issue. Many countries expressed abhorrence for the idea of the Khmer Rouge returning to power in Cambodia. This is a major obstacle in the process to achieve a peaceful settlement for the Cambodian problem and the reason for the present fighting to continue.

The day before yesterday, the assistant secretary to the British Foreign Office, R. McLaren, informed the Thai Foreign Ministry that Britain and other members of the European Economic Community will not support the tripartite coalition government of Cambodia for its seat in the United Nations. In other words, they will stop voting for it. They will also stop all economic and other forms of assistance to that government. They reason that, based on the untenability [preceding word in English] of a continued support for the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea [CGDK] as well as domestic pressure in the European countries demanding an end to the support of that government, Britain and other members of the EEC will not vote for the Cambodian resistance's seat in the next UN General Assembly.

Britain does not want others to think that its support for the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia is just to make it possible for the return of the Khmer Rouge. There should be nothing in the whole story to hint that Britain and the EEC countries would propose and support the Heng Samrin government for the Cambodian seat in the United Nations. Yet, anything can happen. Sources at the Foreign Ministry said that it had been informed of this for several months already but kept the matter in secret. That is smart!

Now, Thailand and ASEAN must think about what they should do at the United Nations General Assembly with this change from Europe. They must decide whether to stop giving support for the Cambodian resistance or to continue supporting it. As for China, I think that it will continue giving support to the resistance. If Thailand does not want to help the resistance any more, what is possible for it to do is to seek unanimous support from all ASEAN members to back this stand. But for Thailand, the problem of Cambodian refugees is a major obstacle.

Yet, the fact that the ECC will not support the CGDK, whether or not ASEAN will support it, will by no means result in the Heng Samrin group immediately occupying a seat in the United Nations. It will take some time for the United Nations to consider whether the Heng Samrin group deserves it. We must not forget that it took 10 [figure as published] years for Communist China to get a UN seat despite the fact that China is a founder of the United Nations.

The domestic pressure claimed by Britain and other EEC countries against the support for the Cambodian resistance's seat in the United Nations is based solely on their hatred for the Khmer Rouge. Without the Khmer Rouge in the coalition, nobody should have any objection to support Prince Sihanouk and Son Sann. Anyway,

without the Khmer Rouge, where should the place of Prince Sihanouk and Son Sann be as the resistance?

What I have said helps explain why the Thai Government has become more friendly to Vietnam lately. Based on this assumption, I think I can continue writing in praise of Prime Minister Chatchai for his intelligence and awareness of the ongoing developments. This has made him a person who deserves public confidence to remain prime minister for some time.

Lao Envoy To Leave Post, Praises 'Cooperation'

*BK1604024190 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
16 Apr 90 p 7*

[Text] Laotian Ambassador to Thailand Khampan Simmalavong will leave his post next month after 14 years in Bangkok and return to Laos to take up the post of Vice-Minister of Foreign Trade and Communications. Mr Khampan, who has been ambassador for the last 11 years and trade councillor three years before that, told the BANGKOK POST the Thai Foreign Ministry is requesting an audience with His Majesty the King and a meeting with Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan in the middle of May before he returns to Vientiane.

"I will miss Thailand," Ambassador Khampan said. "Living here is like living in my own home. And I have always received good cooperation from all levels of Thai officials and have a rapport with all levels of the Thai people." The Ambassador said the reason Thailand and Laos have very good relations is due to the fact the two peoples are related by blood. However, he admitted there were times of difficulties and confusion such as the conflict over the three villages in Uttaradit and the Ban Rom Klao armed incident in Phitsanulok. "I think it is normal both sides must look after their own national interests during such times. "But both situations were defused because the peoples of Thailand and Laos are both peace-loving," said Ambassador Khampan, whose pointed comments during the height of the Ban Rom Klao incident caused a stir in Bangkok.

In his new post as Vice-Minister of Trade and Communications, Ambassador Khampan said he wanted to promote bilateral trade between Laos and Thailand since he is familiar with conditions here. Mr Khampan, who worked for the Laotian Economic Ministry before being transferred to the Foreign Ministry, said both countries can enjoy mutual benefits in their trade relationship. Prime Minister Chatchai signed a communique on trade, tourism, culture and sports with Laotian Premier Kaysone Phomvihane in 1988, and trade relationships can be conducted according to the spirit of that document, he said. "We have to stress the making of the Mekong into a river of peace," Mr Khampan said in reference to a statement in the communique.

On Thai businessmen's complaints that Laos lacks legislation to protect foreign investment, Mr Khampan said the Thai-Lao Joint Commission on Economics and

Trade frequently discusses the issue and, with cooperation from both sides, the problem will be overcome. The Laotian government is also considering legislation to protect and promote foreign investment. It is also studying Thailand's national development plan and foreign investment promotion measures as well as those of other countries to find out what would be appropriate for Laos. Thailand's development and investment promotion plan appears to be the most suitable model, he said.

Ambassador Khampan said his most cherished achievement in Thailand has been Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakkri Sirinthon's visit to Laos last month, which had greatly enhanced relations between the two countries. The trip received excellent cooperation from senior Thai officials, the Thai military and the Thai press, Ambassador Khampan said.

Comments on Labor Laws, Bilateral Relations

*BK1804015790 Bangkok THE NATION in English
18 Apr 90 p 10*

[Editorial: "Stopping Brawn Drain"]

[Text] At its meeting yesterday, the Cabinet decided that the country should slow down or stop promoting the export of Thai labour to foreign countries because of the increasing shortage of skilled labour at home due to the rapid expansion of the Thai economy.

The Cabinet also asked the Labour Department to help Thai workers in difficult situations, and if need be give all possible assistance to aid their return to Thailand, including providing them with free transportation on military aircraft and vessels.

The decision came at a time when Thai-Singapore ties are being tested once again. Although the Cabinet did not mention Singapore by name, by implication its decision was deliberately aimed at that country, where some Thai workers have reached a state of near panic following the mysterious deaths of their colleagues this year.

Last year, thousands of illegal workers had to leave Singapore in a big hurry to avoid punishment by caning. The situation today is quite different, as by far the majority of Thai workers in Singapore are there legally and do not have to run away. Let us be cool-headed.

In the wake of the mysterious deaths of several Thai workers in their sleep in Singapore, Brunei and Malaysia in recent months, several politicians have been competing with one another for media exposure in visiting Thai workers in these countries. They have also floated sensational ideas about sending the workers free condoms, Buddha amulets and entertainment troupes to help calm them down and boost their morale. But they have not come up with a serious approach to ending the exploitation of the Thai labour.

Undoubtedly Singapore is not a popular country here. Thai politicians will not miss this opportunity to capitalize on the national furor against the exploitation of Thai workers by Singaporean employers. And the smugness of the Singapore authorities in justifying the exploitation—calling the daily wage of S\$16 (less than Baht 230) a "free market rate" which the Thais are free to take or leave—only rubs salt into Thailand's wounds.

Let's face it, the Thai government is partly to be blamed for this humiliation. By not enforcing labour laws or providing workers with adequate welfare benefits, all able Thais, including the poorly-educated from rural areas who are prone to exploitation, will try to find jobs abroad.

Now that the government wants to stop this "brawn drain" and persuade Thai workers in Singapore and elsewhere to return home, it must ask itself what concrete incentives it is going to offer Thai labour. Promises of good jobs in the Eastern Seaboard and the Southern Seaboard are not enough. Will existing labour laws be fully enforced? Will employers be made to abide by minimum wage regulations? Will there be a decent social security system in the near future? If not, Thai workers will continue to seek jobs abroad and inevitably get into trouble and be cheated.

Thai workers should not be prevented from seeking employment abroad, especially when the government cannot take good care of them at home. All Thais must not be restricted from enjoying their constitutional right to freedom of movement and to earn an honest living anywhere they can. The responsibility of the government is to see to it that those who want to work abroad get the best deal, instead of the raw deal that many Thais are getting in Singapore.

We believe the best way to help the Thai workers in Singapore is through a systematic government-to-government approach. We believe that as partners in ASEAN, Thailand and Singapore can still be friends. But friendship must be based on mutual benefits, rather than exploitation of an unfavourable labour situation.

Nigerian Envoy on Visa Restrictions, Treatment

*BK1904015990 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
19 Apr 90 p 4*

[Text] The Nigerian Government is "thankful" for Thailand's recent decision to revoke automatic visa privileges for Nigerians as it would discourage those who travel to this country to traffic in drugs, newly-accredited Nigerian Ambassador Aisha Jimeta said yesterday.

Ambassador Jimeta, based in Manila and now accredited to Thailand after presenting her credentials to His Majesty the King yesterday, also said that the measure, if applied with discretion, would not hamper bilateral relations. She also pleaded for fair treatment for "innocent" Nigerians whom she said were victims of circumstance during police raids.

The ambassador said the arrested Nigerian couriers were merely "small fry" in a drug trafficking syndicate operating here. "Our government is very much concerned about what's going on here, and aware that some of the people arrested here may be innocent," she said.

Based on interviews with some Nigerians held in custody here, Ambassador Jimeta said certain suspects claimed innocence and were arrested "without drugs in hand but simply because they happened to be in the hotel during the raid." She quoted some interviewees as saying drugs were foisted upon them during raids and they did not actually possess any illegal drugs at the time of the arrest.

"I understand that a drug offence is a serious crime. We don't want to interfere with the legal procedures here but we plead that the innocent not be punished as a result of a few bad eggs, or because they come from a country where certain citizens are sentenced on drug charges," she said.

Nigerian passports, real or forged, were the most sought after among Africans because they believed the documents would entitle them to protection extended to holders as Nigeria had the widest network of overseas missions, she said. She stressed that not all the Africans arrested here on drug trafficking charges were bona fide Nigerians. To her knowledge, there were some 30 Nigerians among more than 100 Africans arrested on drug charges in Bangkok.

"It's a pity because Nigeria accounts for a quarter of all African citizens. So you see one Nigerian in every four Africans," she said.

In an attempt to curb passport forgery, the Nigerian Government has twice introduced new-style passports, but still the problem could not be solved, the ambassador said.

Asked about the possibility of Thai-Nigerian cooperation to suppress drug trafficking, she said the Nigerians involved in smuggling left their home country virtually empty-handed, and acquired the drugs here.

Retention of Media Curbs in New Bill Viewed

*BK1904021590 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
19 Apr 90 p 4*

[Editorial: Press Curbs Must Go, Not Just Change Form]

[Text] When a group of local newspaper editors met Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan early last month to seek his support for the abrogation of the National Administrative Reform Council (NARC) Decree No 42, they came away with high hopes. Not only did the prime minister unequivocally pledge his support to scrap the draconian edict, he also promised to do his best to ensure that Decree 42 would not be invoked by the authorities for the revocation of newspaper editorship and publisher licences in the interim period leading up to its abolition.

The prime minister's pledge was an immense morale booster, giving rise to a real glimmer of hope. Successive efforts have been mounted in the past by various journalistic groups in Thailand to get rid of this dictatorial decree which, since its imposition in 1976, has constituted a deep scar on an otherwise flourishing print-media institution. Those efforts nearly came to fruition during the previous administration though they were stalled by Senate opposition and finally put back to square one following the 1988 dissolution of the House of Representatives.

But less than two months after that symbolic meeting at Government House, the hope for greater freedom of expression seems to be fast diminishing. The Cabinet duly gave its approval "in principle" to scrap Decree 42, though the ministers also decided to supersede it with a new law. A committee chaired by Deputy Interior Minister Sano Thianthong was subsequently set up to follow through with the Cabinet decision.

This committee reportedly has now decided to revert back to a previous official gameplan whereby there would be two new bills—one amending the current Printing Act (B.E.2484) and the other on the creation of a press council. Both bills were understood to be drafted by the Police Department and first submitted to the Interior Ministry earlier last year, although former Interior Minister Praman Adireksan had later asked for the two bills to be merged.

The most distressing aspect of this latest development is that, while Decree 42 may be nominally scrapped, its very essence is still retained in the new amended printing bill. In another word, the state would still retain power to revoke newspaper editorship and publisher licences under the various offences currently outlined in Decree 42. The only point of difference is that after such action, the affected newspapers would be able to appeal to the court instead of the interior ministry.

Let it be said here once again that an unconditional abrogation of Decree 42 is long overdue and should be effected right away without any political foot-dragging. There is ample justification to do this and it should be done separately from whatever new law the government wanted to promulgate on its professed intention to promote freedom of expression.

This draconian edict carried no legitimacy from the very start since it was imposed by a group of people who seized power by force in 1976 after toppling a constitutionally-installed government at the time. Its authorisation for the "printing officer" to summarily revoke editorship and publisher licences also contravenes the internationally-accepted judicial practice whereby both the accusing and accused parties are given their airings before a final judgement is made by the court.

The recent campaign for Decree 42's abrogation mounted by various leading local newspapers—the BANGKOK POST included—is prompted by a genuine desire for independent and objective press coverage of

important national affairs which to date has not been possible due to the menacing threat posed by the edict. Greater freedom of expression would in turn enhance the public's right to know. This is all in perfect conformity with the country's broadening and deepening democratisation process.

It may be understandable that bureaucrats at the Interior Ministry or Police Department want to hold on to their longstanding power to deal with the press. But it is the duty of elected government leaders like Gen [General] Chatchai, Interior Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha and Mr Sano to initiate changes that would best serve the public interest. For them to pay lip service alone is hardly enough. On the other hand, they would be doing the public a great disservice if they supported a continuation of the press-gaging powers.

Muslim Group Steps Up Antigovernment Activities

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[Text] Members of a Muslim revolutionary group in the south have stepped up activities, especially in Pattani, Yala, and Narathiwat Provinces, with the aim of creating political and religious tension to serve their purpose.

A high-level military source told NAE0 NA that, over the past month, the group organized rallies during which antigovernment speeches were made. They condemned the authorities over the registration of Kisae Mosque as a national historic site despite the fact that the registration was based on the proposal by the Office of the Islamic Affairs Adviser. Other issues of their attack were cases of political injustice in some areas of Pattani, Yala, and Narathiwat. A group of about 600 to 800 people were recruited at each rally which was marked by incitement and instigation. They provoked the authorities to make arrests in order to exploit the situation to blow up confusion. "We have learned from our informant that they even have a plan to declare Pattani independent on 19 April," the official said.

The source said that the group got financial support from southern separatist movements which, in turn, received financial support in large amounts from foreigners. Asked about the countermeasures, the official of the 4th Army Region said the government emphasized political approaches through access to the masses. There will be no resort to violence because that would only lead the authorities to fall prey to the group which is already trying to create conditions to revive terrorism.